Kidnap spree forces PNP revamp

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I'TS A BLUE, BLUE CHRISTMAS

Joyless in season of joy

BY C. BATINO

CHRISTMAS is around the corner but most of the government's 1.5 million workers are in no mood to make

JOYLESS/ A19

A FINAL goodbye from Nida Blanca here shown in her first starring role in "Korea" in 1952.

Nida buried today; 2 suspects under custody

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

ACTRESS Nida Blanca will be brought to her final resting place this afternoon even as a restive nation continues to try to understand the mystery of her gruesome murder.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said police might announce a "positive development or the solution" of Blanca's murder by Thursday or Friday.

Wycoco said he was basing this on "indicators" he received in conversations with Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto and Director General Leandro Mendoza of the Philippine National Police.

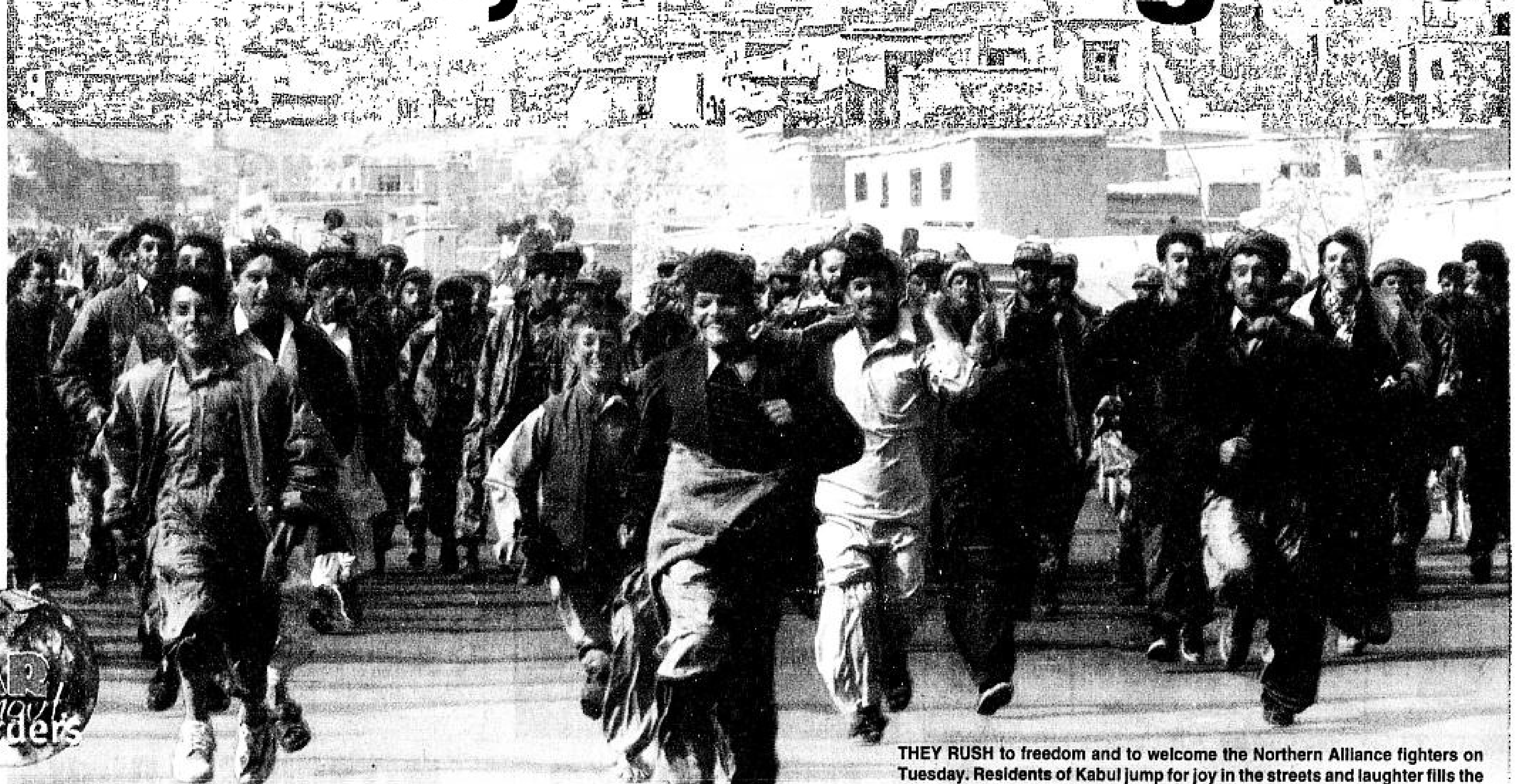
A top investigator who spoke on condition of anonymity said two suspects in the murder were now in the custody of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

The suspects are hired killers, according to the source who spoke on condition of anonymity. He did not disclose their gender or the circumstances of their arrest.

But Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, spokesperson of the PNP-CIDG's Task Force Marsha, denied this last night.

NIDA/ A19

Kabul falls; Taliban gone



THEY RUSH to freedom and to welcome the Northern Alliance fighters on Tuesday. Residents of Kabul jump for joy in the streets and laughter fills the city as the collapse of the Taliban regime became irreversible. REUTERS

But where is Osama bin Laden?

KABUL—Capping their stunning victories in northern Afghanistan, opposition fighters yesterday rolled into Kabul after Taliban troops slipped away under cover of darkness, abandoning the capital without a fight.

Northern Alliance soldiers with their distinctive pakool caps roamed the city, hunting Taliban stragglers and their Arab, Pakistani and Chechen allies from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida movement. At least five Pakistanis and two Arabs were killed.

Weeks of bombing by the United States weakened the Taliban sufficiently for the Northern Alliance to move across enemy lines.

US President George W. Bush launched the air campaign on Oct. 7 after the Taliban refused to hand over Bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that killed 4,500 people in the United States.

President Bush earlier urged the Northern Alliance to stay out of the capital until a new, broad-based government could be formed to replace the Taliban.

KABUL/ A21

Afghans ditch turbans, shave, dance, listen to music

KABUL—Clean-shaven men rubbed their faces. An old man with a newly trimmed beard danced in the street holding a small tape recorder blaring music to his ear.

Shouts of "Allahu akbar (God is great)" went up and black turbans came off as the first Northern Alliance forces rolled into Kabul after dawn Tuesday.

The Taliban militia—who had banned music and ordered men to wear beards and black turbans—was gone after a five-year hold on the Afghan capital.

People of the war-ravaged city woke up to find the Taliban, a radical Sunni movement that had ruled here since 1996, no longer determined the clothes they wore or the length of their beards.

"This feels so good," Ahmed Shah said as he rubbed his freshly shaven face. "I hated the beard. It was always itchy."

Many women, however, were still not ready to abandon the all-enveloping burqa—a traditional garment made mandatory by the Taliban. But there were signs that some, perhaps most, of the younger, educated women would eventually abandon the burqa in favor of Western styles.

In a rickety old blue bus, a woman quickly flipped her burqa up over her head. Male residents who were gathering around a group of Northern Alliance soldiers laughed.

AFGHANS/ A21

Lacson links top cops to 'jueteng payola'

BY ROCKY NAZARENO

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday dropped a bombshell on the Senate floor—a "jueteng payola" that included National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco and ranking Philippine National Police officials allegedly receiving at least P2 million a month from gambling lords.

In a privilege speech titled "Her Excellency, Her Helplessness," Lacson enumerated the alleged jueteng operations in six regions of Luzon, including Metro Manila. He said his revelations were based on "actual field reports as well as intelligence reports of the PNP."

Wycoco could not be reached for comment

LACSON/ A20

'Stakes at least $1.2 billion a year'

BY CARLITO PABLO

BUSINESSMAN Pacifico Marcelo said yesterday the controversial telecommunications firm he put up stood to earn at least $1.2 billion or over P62.4 billion in annual revenues, and hinted that this was the reason he was subjected to a "shakedown."

"The stakes were at least $1.2 billion in earnings for the (Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc.) per year alone. Some people wanted that," Marcelo said in a phone interview.

Marcelo had charged the other day that

STAKES/ A19

Sept. 11 attack survivor dies in crash

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—Hilda Yolanda Mayor escaped the World Trade Center attack only to board the plane that crashed into a New York neighborhood on Monday.

Mayor, 26, had worked in a restaurant at the first floor of the trade center. She was a US citizen who stayed in touch with relatives in her Caribbean birthplace near San Pedro de Macoris.

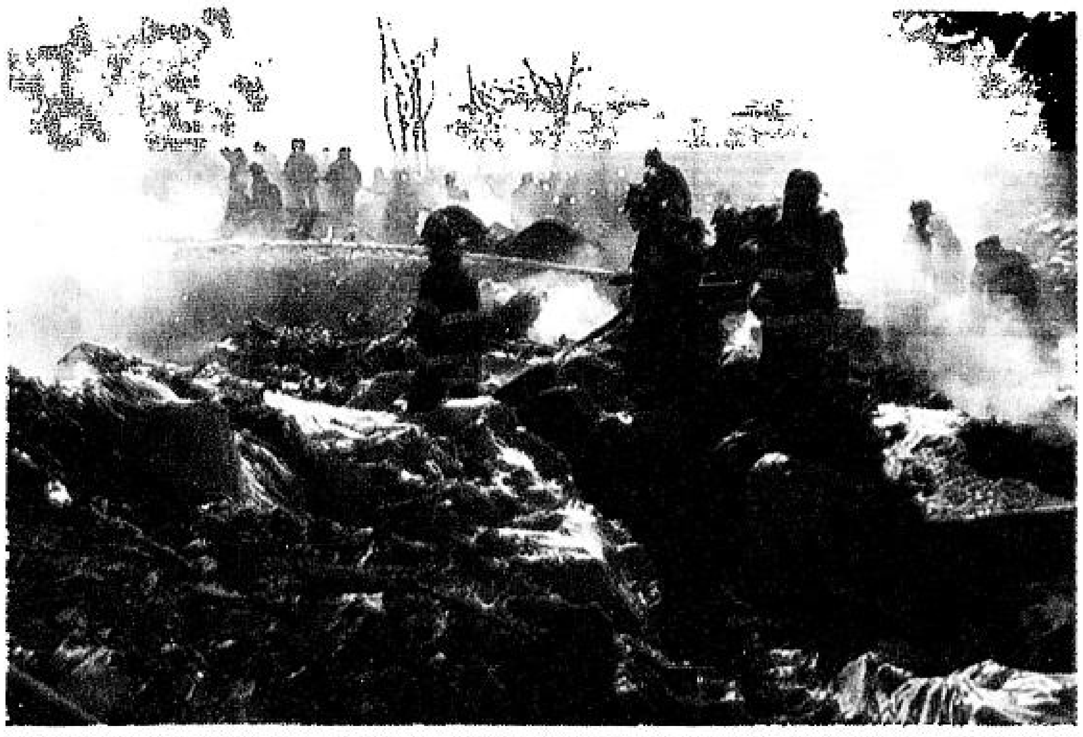
Mayor had planned to vacation to the Dominican Republic with her two children.

"We were going to make a meal. We were going to have all the family together," said her mother, Virginia Hernandez.

"She was my treasure," Hernandez said from the family's Dominican home, where relatives wailed their grief.

The Sept. 11 attack on the trade center had left 41 Dominicans among the dead and missing. But the anguished cries of the victims' kin that echoed through Santo

SEPT./ A20



THE SECOND worst disaster in aviation history, US officials describe the American Airlines Flight 587 which crashed in Rockaway Beach, Queens, New York, 14 minutes after takeoff from JFK airport on Nov. 12. GETTY IMAGES

Probers treat crash as accident

NEW YORK—Investigators are treating Monday's crash of American Airlines Flight 578 as an accident, with early evidence pointing to mechanical failure in the twin-engine Airbus A300.

US federal safety officials had concluded a month ago that there was an unsafe condition in the type of engine that powered the ill-fated plane and had started moving toward tougher inspections.

At least 265 bodies have been recovered in the crash site at the Rockaway Beach section of Queens, a middle-class neighborhood.

There were 251 passengers—including five infants sitting on their

PROBERS/ A20

Kidnapping spree forces major PNP revamp

BY GERALD LACUARTA AND NELSON FLORES

THE ABDUCTION of a well-known doctor's daughter the other day and continuing press criticism have finally forced police authorities to admit the obvious: kidnapping for ransom has taken a turn for the worse.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina and Director General Leandro Mendoza ordered a major revamp of the Philippine National Police and formed a new anti-KFR task force. PNP Director Lucas Managuelod admitted that kidnappings across the country were on the rise with 88 cases already recorded, including 18 foreigners among the victims. Immediately after arriving from her state visit to Indonesia last night, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to explain why kidnappings were continuing even after the police had claimed to have earlier busted three kidnap gangs.

Two civil society groups yesterday asked the Supreme Court to create special independent courts to try kidnapping cases. The influential American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc. also urged the administration to arrest the worsening kidnapping situation.

KIDNAPPING/ A19

SANA MUTUAL NA YAN!

COMMON SCOURGE FOR RP, US

Defense pact may cover terrorism

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

THE HEAD of the United States forces in the Pacific said yesterday there will be "dramatic" changes in the implementation of the 50-year-old Mutual Defense Treaty to help both governments address the "challenges of the future, including terrorism."

Speaking after meetings with top Philippine military officials yesterday, Admiral Dennis Blair, commander-in-chief of the US Forces in the Pacific (Cincpac), said the mutual defense plan would be reconfigured to fight the "common scourge that we face with many, many countries in the world."

Asked if this would mean a review of the treaty, Blair said he expected changes to be made in the treaty's implementation.

"I think the way in which it is being implemented will change dramatically (because) of this new source of threat," Blair said.

Blair yesterday held talks with Armed Forces Chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and other top military officials on increasing cooperation and providing US assistance in the pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf.

He was to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo last night.

Blair's arrival here comes ahead of Ms Macapagal's meeting with US President George W. Bush next week.

Blair said the specific military assistance to be given the Philippines would be discussed later and the military aid packaged "would not be completed until our presidents meet."

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President would be giving Blair a "shopping list" of transport and surveillance equipment needed by the military.

The Philippines has strongly supported the US-led anti-terror campaign, including the strikes against Afghanistan, and expects its support to result in more US military assistance to the poorly equipped military.

Ms Macapagal earlier said she expected Blair to brief her on the results of the US assessment of the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf who are still holding two Americans.

After the military top brass' meeting with Blair, Villaneuva signed a "five-year work plan" for the Mutual Defense Board, the implementing arm of the treaty where Armed Forces and Cincpac officials sit.

The plan covers training, equipment and joint exercises, a military official said.

Blair said the Mutual Defense Board would serve as a "firm foundation for our expanding cooperation."

In his remarks, Blair thanked the Macapagal-Arroyo government for its "heartwarming" expression of support after the terrorist attacks on the US.

The Philippine government's role in the US-led global war against terrorism is "extremely valuable" in strengthening military cooperation between the two allies, he said.

The President was among the first global leaders to offer assistance to the US in its campaign against terror following the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

"We'll win over these challenges as we did in the past," Blair said.

Arroyo had offered the use of Philippine airspace and its airports for US military planes for refueling stops.

In return, the US government early this month sent a team of counter-terrorism experts to help advise the Armed Forces on fighting the Abu Sayyaf.

The advisers did not join combat operations but assessed government's strategies against the Abu Sayyaf, which authorities have linked to the al-Qaida network of wanted terror suspect Osama bin Laden.

In Zamboanga City, Southern Command Chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu awaits the arrival today of Blair and his 15-man delegation from Cincpac.

"This is a follow-on on the visit of the US military coordinators last month. Commander Blair will also submit their assessment on Basilan," Cimatu said.

Cimatu said he would raise with Blair the problem of the lack of equipment though he said he knew the issue would be discussed on a higher level. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and AP, AFP*

Gov't cites gains vs Abu

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday reported gains against the Abu Sayyaf and said it expects all of the extremist group's hostages, including an American couple, will be rescued.

"Even as our troops have been fighting in difficult terrain using very limited field-transport and surveillance facilities, and with the Abu Sayyaf group cowardly melting into the civilian population to hide from our forces, our military and police have achieved major victories against this decade-old criminal terrorist group," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

"It would just be a matter of time before Abu Sayyaf stragglers are completely annihilated and the remaining hostages recovered," he said. AP

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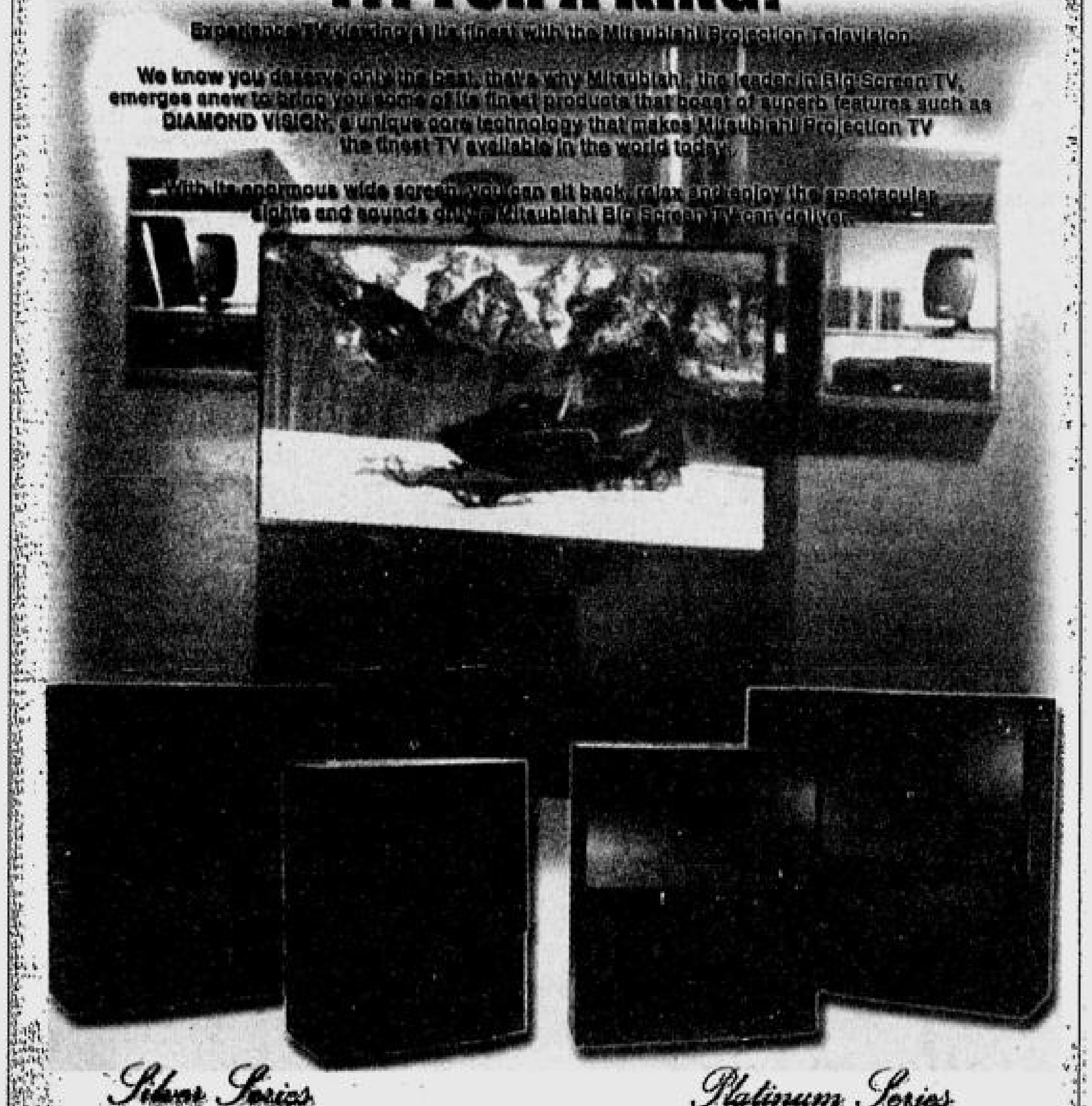

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NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that a decision in **DARAB Case No. 2999** (Reg. Case No. 0011-91), entitled **FELIX CU versus SPS. BIENVENIDO FLORES, MARCELO RAMOS, FAUSTO A. ANGELES, HILARIA GUTIERREZ and CONCEPCION TATEL GUTIERREZ** was promulgated by the DAR Adjudication Board, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City on January 19, 2000.

Counsels and parties to this case, particularly Hilaria Gutierrez and Concepcion Tatel Gutierrez whose last known address were in Brgy. Pinugay, Baras, Rizal but recently reported to have resided at Valenzuela, Metro Manila, are hereby advised to get a copy of the said decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice, without any motion for reconsideration or appeal being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision to this case shall become final and executory.

November 5, 2001, Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

November 7 & 14, 2001 – Inquirer

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Gloria back from Jakarta…

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo returned yesterday from a two-day state visit to Indonesia where she issued a call for deeper and more rapid economic integration of Southeast Asian nations in response to a new economic slump.

The President will be home for barely a day before flying to the United States at 10 p.m. tonight on a week-long working visit that will include an address before the United Nations General Assembly and a side trip to Mexico.

In a speech before the secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Jakarta, the President said Asean's response to the renewed economic adversity should be "to deepen further the economic integration of our region."

She said the 10-nation Asean should speed up its Free Trade Area, lay the foundations of an Asean Investment Area, work out comprehensive plans for regional transport schemes and adopt the e-Asean initiative.

The Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) is due to come into effect in 2003.

Ms Macapagal said Asean's economic competitiveness "depends in large measure" on issues such as the competence of financial systems, the rule of law and transparency.

"While these are largely matters of domestic policy within the sovereign right of each nation, the situation in one Asean country affects us all, including people's perception of the region as a whole.

A more integrated Asean economy means "maintaining, if not accelerating further, the timetable for the Asean Free Trade Area, identifying impediments to trade and investments and removing them," Ms Macapagal said.

She urged Asean members to work side by side to combat terrorism and transnational crimes.

"The growing menace of terrorism, operating regionally and internationally, compels Asean to work together to combat it. It is with similar urgency that we must cooperate in dealing with other transnational threats to our economies and our security—piracy, drug-trafficking, trafficking in human beings, IT-related fraud."

In her arrival remarks, Ms Macapagal reported that her meetings with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri had resulted in several cooperation agreements on security, fisheries, regional development and business.

"One of our major achievements is that after many years of aspiring, the Philippine National Oil Company will finally get a concession to explore and development geothermal resources of Indonesia," the President reported.

She said she and Megawati had agreed to restore air and sea links between Mindanao and Sulawesi as part of regional efforts to revive the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines (BIMP)-East Asean Growth Area initiative.

Both also agreed to cooperate in developing their fisheries sectors, including fighting illegal fishing.

The two leaders also affirmed their support for forming a five-nation regional front against terrorism and transnational crimes, including arms smuggling, drugs and human trafficking.

The front is comprised of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore.

Megawati has also assured the Philippines that Indonesia would continue to support the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Ms Macapagal stressed that the Philippines and Indonesia were "neighbors and not competitors."

She said the Philippines will buy from Indonesia "resource-based products" like coal, natural gas and fertilizer, while Indonesia will buy from the Philippines "knowledge-based products" such as systems computerization and movies.

She said Philippine coal-fired power plants would now be able to buy coal at much cheaper prices from Kalimantan, Indonesia. *Dona Pazzibugan and AFP*

… And off again tonight for US

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, who is pushing through with her United States trip despite the latest plane crash in New York, has decided to lengthen her working visit to include an address at the United Nations and will be leaving tonight instead of Sunday.

After delivering an address to the UN General Assembly on Friday, the President is to fly to Washington for talks with US President George Bush next Tuesday, said Isabel de Leon of the office of the presidential spokesperson.

Ms Macapagal will fly to Mexico next Wednesday for a half-day visit, De Leon said, before flying for home the next day via San Diego in California.

The President's original schedule was for a US visit on Nov. 18 to 21, followed by a short visit to Mexico.

From Jakarta where she was winding up a two-day state visit late Monday, the President said she was saddened by the news of the plane crash in New York the other day but, "barring physical circumstances that will prevent us from physically landing, the trip will go on as scheduled."

No postponement

As of yesterday afternoon, Washington had not advised Malacañang about postponing the President's US trip for security reasons.

US aviation authorities have not yet determined if the crash of an American Airlines plane in New York shortly after take-off the other day was another terrorist attack.

"We are concerned but we are confident that the Presidential Security Group in coordination with the US Secret Service will be able to… secure the safety of the delegation," said presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

He said the President has no second thoughts about pushing through with the trip. Neither is she deterred by rumored coup attempts and destabilization plots while she is away.

No second thoughts

"We're confident that the situation is very close to being normal and we don't have fears at all that any group would have the capacity or moral support for any destabilization campaign," Tiglao said.

Ms Macapagal, a staunch supporter of the US-led anti-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan, said she hoped to deepen cooperation in the fight against terrorism when she meets with Bush next Tuesday.

"Invariably, we will be talking about our security relations and economic relations with each other," she said in excerpts from an interview with CNN television released by Malacañang yesterday.

"We will, of course, be talking about the international coalition against terrorism, what we can do to make it successful," she added.

"That includes not only defense matters but also matters regarding the economy."

Every step of the way

Ms Macapagal, who was interviewed by CNN while on a state visit to Indonesia, said the Philippines stands with Washington "every step of the way" in the fight against terrorism.

Commenting on the US-led strikes in Afghanistan, where bin Laden and his al-Qaida network have been sheltered by the Taliban, she said: "Of course, there are many ways to skin a cat, but if this is the way they have chosen to do it, then the Philippines is supportive of that."

She also said that the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf was "doing very, very well."

The President's visit will mark the 50th anniversary of the Philippine-US Mutual Defense Treaty.

Aside from remaining a military ally after US colonial rule ended, Washington is also the Philippines' largest trading partner.

The bursting of the US technology bubble has hit the economy hard, with merchandise export receipts officially forecast to plunge by 15 percent this year and to register zero growth next year.

But Ms Macapagal said that on the positive side, many bilateral irritants had diminished against the backdrop of the global terrorist threat.

"So the world has changed in that the international nature of terrorism has been recognized as being a major threat toward our being able to move forward in our economic progress in the world."

Two-way trade between the US and the Philippines amounted to about $22.7 billion last year, with the US taking about one-third of all Philippine exports. *AFP with a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

Reds burn telecom sites

SUSPECTED members of the New People's Army burned down four relay stations and disarmed 10 security guards manning it in Compostela Valley Monday night.

The four stations, according to a report relayed to Camp Aguinaldo, were owned by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Philcom, Dole and Liberty.

They were located inside a common telecom station in sitio Mahayhay, barangay Tuburan, Mawab, Compostela Valley.

The raid, conducted by about 30 NPAs, is believed to be part of the campaign to raise funds for the rebels.

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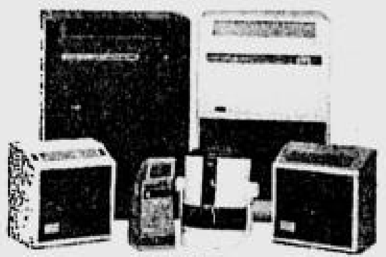

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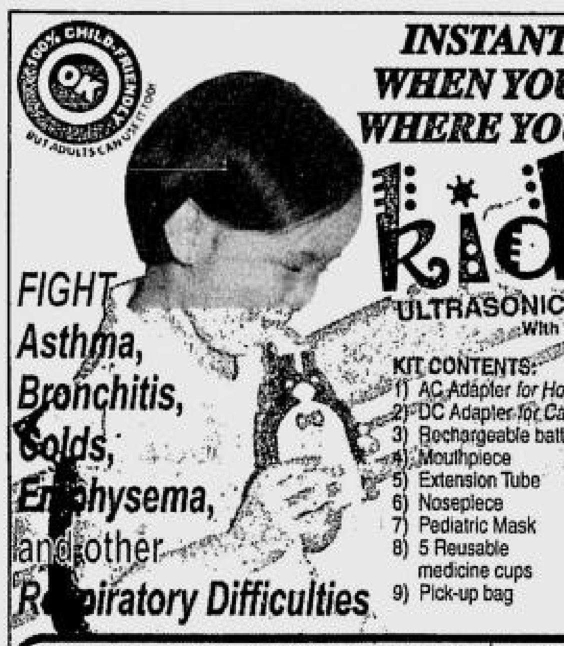

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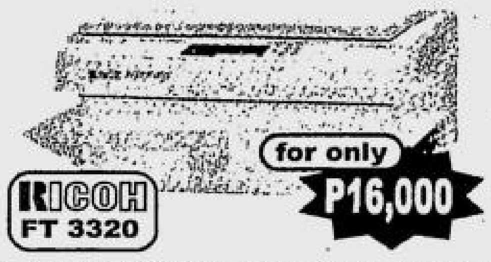

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PARTY LINES are drawn at the resumption of the Senate session on Monday. On one side are the majority senators—Joker Arroyo, Noli de Castro, Senate President Franklin Drilon, Manuel Villar, John Osmeña and Loren Legarda. On the other side are opposition senators Panfilo Lacson, Tessie Oreta, Robert Jaworski, Rodolfo Biazon, Gregorio Honasan, Edgardo Angara and Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

JESS YUSON

A year after Erap impeachment: 'Nothing's changed'

BY ROCKY NAZARENO AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

AT THE HOUSE and the Senate, lawmakers who at great odds mustered the courage and the numbers to have former President Joseph Estrada impeached one year ago see little cause to celebrate the landmark event.

And at least two figures irrevocably identified with the deposed leader still assail the event and hanker for a different ending.

It was a full turn of the annum yesterday to the historic House session when then Speaker Manuel Villar, now a senator, managed to complete the impeachment process by taking the ruse of a prayer to transmit the impeach articles to the Senate.

Villar is now "worried" that the lessons of Edsa 2, which was a direct offshoot of the impeachment and trial of Estrada, would go for naught.

"Nothing has changed," he said in a press conference yesterday, noting that the problems of peace and order and the illegal numbers game "jueteng" had continued to hound the country despite the takeover of President Macapagal-Arroyo last Jan. 20.

He said he harbored a "bad feeling" about the current administration.

"At the rate we're going, there is a strong possibility that all those lessons would go to waste," he said.

Villar said he was alarmed that the number of kidnappings had even increased during the last few months of the Macapagal administration.

"Maybe when she gets back from her trip to the United States, the President should start concentrating on the peace and order situation of our country," he said.

Villar, however, acknowledged one good result. "Probably the only favorable change that has happened was that there is now greater awareness among government officials that no one is above the law."

"There is now that fear among officials, no matter what position they hold, that they could be investigated and possibly convicted if they do wrong," Villar said.

Legislators of the 11th Congress who were named to prosecute Estrada and who are back as members of the present Congress also say they see no reason to celebrate, saying the fight against the wrongdoings prominent during the past administration had not been completed.

To make this plain, Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes, spokesperson for the House prosecution panel, said no commemoration rites were held yesterday.

"There's nothing to celebrate. We're still in the doldrums," Reyes said.

But he said there would be a commemorative dinner on Dec. 13, the day when former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson first testified in the Senate impeachment trial.

Sen. Joker Arroyo, one of the lead prosecutors at the impeachment trial, could only break out in a wry smile when asked what favorable changes had transpired since Nov. 13, 2001.

"Don't ask me, I don't know," he said.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, when asked how former House prosecutors marked the anniversary of Estrada's impeachment, retorted, "Is there cause for celebration?"

As prosecutor, Moreno was assigned to present the testimony of bank officials against Estrada in the failed Senate impeachment trial.

Former first lady and now Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito took the occasion to defend her husband anew.

"Only the Filipino people can provide an unequivocal answer to the question of whether the impeachment of a duly elected President benefited the country and if the truth... has indeed been established without a doubt," she said.

She charged that those who "planned and schemed" to bring down her husband had lied to the people by implying that "all the country's problems would be magically solved in one fell swoop."

"Unfortunately, the truth points to the opposite. Life has become more difficult and the masses are finding it close to impossible to live as human beings should," she said.

Akbayan partylist Rep. Etta Rosales delivered a privilege speech yesterday in which she recalled the day of impeachment, a first in Philippine history.

Rosales' speech prompted Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen to declare that Estrada's impeachment and ultimate removal from Malacañang by Edsa 2 was unconstitutional.

Dilangalen, who gained fame as the opposition member who frantically tried to stop Villar's prayer, asserted that Estrada "did not resign" from office, but was ousted by a "mob better known as Edsa 2."

In his interpellation, Dilangalen reminded the House that Villar, "without breathing anymore," used the prayer at the start of the session to transmit the articles of impeachment.

Dilangalen said that even if the Supreme Court upheld President Macapagal's presidency, the removal of Estrada remained unconstitutional because it did not fall under the processes prescribed in the Constitution.

Dilangalen also said the House prosecutors abandoned the impeachment trial by walking out and the Senate "had to dismiss" the trial "for lack of evidence" against the accused.

"I hope it will be clear in the minds of our people that what happened (on Nov. 13 at the House) was a violation of the Constitution," he said.

Dilangalen added: "I am not saying these because I have a canine loyalty to Estrada. I may be a Moro but I am very, very patriotic.

Rosales said the impeachment was significant because it underscored the essence of democracy—that all men or persons are equal and that no person, no matter how powerful, was above the law.

She said the impeachment upheld the separation of powers.

"For one shining moment, the House showed itself independent of the clutches of Malacañang and voted in favor of removing from office its highest' and most powerful occupant," she said.

Rosales recounted how 38 House members initially signed the articles of impeachment and how their number eventually swelled to 110.

"It was democracy at work because it involved the will of the people under the rule of law," she said.

But Rosales admitted that "so much controversy had, and continues to, hound this first historical act of the 11th Congress."

She said the debate about what transpired in the House that fateful day showed there was a need to "refine the rules" on impeachment.

"If we review newspaper reports of what had taken place, one cannot fail to observe the range of conflicting emotions from a highly polarized citizenry that surrounded the fast pace of developments in the House (that day)," she said.

She said there was a need to "clarify the process of impeachment as a democratic effort giving the accused due process every step of the way."

But she noted that without the collective voice of the people outside the halls of Congress, it was doubtful that House members would have been inspired to impeach Estrada.

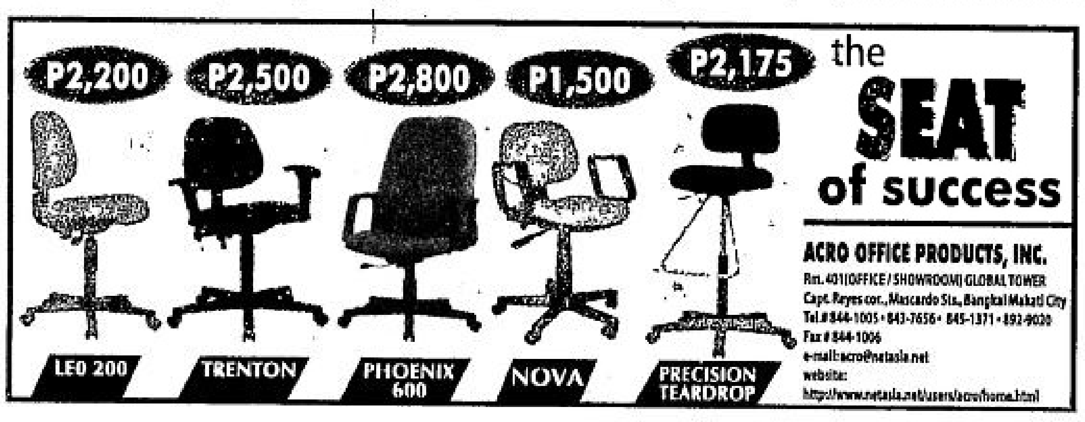
"Even as the Senate trial of the impeached President was frustrated, it was the Filipino people who completed the trial, their collective voice finally putting pressure on the President to finally step down," Rosales said.

en. Francis Pangilinan, who was a convenor of Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino II (Kompil II) that firmly pressed for the removal of Estrada, echoed Villar's view.

"There is more interest in the affairs of the state and people are more vigilant about the conduct of public officials," he said.

And like Villar, Pangilinan does not see a rosy future ahead for the country.

"Despite the change in government, we're looking at a possible recession. Things even worsened after the Sept. 11 terrorist bombings in the US," he said.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ROCO'S EMANCIPATION PLEA

'Spare teachers from poll duty'

By Donna S. Cueto

TEACHERS out of the crucial 2004 polls?

Education Secretary Raul Roco is pushing this idea—getting teachers out of the 2004 presidential election and placing college students in their stead.

Roco said he wants teachers to be freed of non-teaching duties such as manning election precincts, serving in the board of election inspectors, and doing survey work, among others.

"The most important is to depoliticize the teachers' ranks. Years of using the teachers for elections have made them vulnerable to threats, physical harm and corruption, for some," he said yesterday.

"The teachers should not be used in the elections anymore so that we can depoliticize them. You must take them out of politics," he stressed.

Roco said that if the teachers are not forced to serve in the elections anymore, the quality of education in the country might improve.

Roco said that he would suggest this to the Commission on Elections and Congress.

"I am asking the political leaders and Comelec to depoliticize the teachers," he said.

He said Congress should amend Section 13 of the Omnibus Election Act of Republic Act 6646 that required teachers to render election duty.

He pointed out that Comelec could deputize anybody to render election duties. There are strong reasons that teachers should be out of the polls, he said.

To fill the void left by the teachers, we should "deputize the young people," Roco said, suggesting that first, second and third year college students could take the teachers' places in the elections.

Asked if this could be more chaotic, the education secretary said no.

"I think it is better. During (President Ramon) Magsaysay's time, it was the students who were used, especially those in the ROTC," he said.

Roco said that teachers should concentrate more on education, and should be "depoliticized."

Another reason to take out teachers from the elections is to push the Comelec to computerize the next elections.

"If teachers are not obliged to render election duty, this would serve as an impetus to the Comelec to ensure that by the next elections, we have efficient computerized polls," Roco said.

ROCO

Roco: What's wrong with 'Panata'?

By Donna S. Cueto

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco yesterday said he could not understand why there are people still opposing his revised "Panatang Makabayan" or pledge of allegiance.

He challenged critics to come out in the open, saying he was ready to defend it, even in a public debate.

He said he did not need to get a clearance from President Macapagal-Arroyo to revise the pledge, since the education department was authorized to do such revisions.

"I cannot understand those opposing this revised Panatang Makabayan. I really cannot," he said.

"Are they opposed to promoting Filipino values?" Roco said in a press briefing yesterday.

Roco claimed that he revised the pledge of allegiance because he wanted to promote values in commemoration of the Filipino values month.

"Let there be a public debate on the differences," he said.

"What's wrong with '*masipag at marangal*'? What's wrong with '*naglilingkod, nag-aaral at nagdarasal ng buong katapatan*'? What's wrong with '*iaalay ko ang aking buhay, pangarap, pagsisikap sa bansang Pilipinas*'?" he asked, citing the revisions he had done on the Panatang Makabayan.

Roco said that he got the idea of revising the pledge from prominent academicians, including University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo.

He said Nemenzo suggested the taking out of the word "*kapakipakinabang*" (useful) which he was having difficulty to pronounce as a Bisaya.

The concept of the old Panatang Makabayan was "utilitarian," Roco said.

Former Education Secretary Armand Fabella and former undersecretary Erlinda Pefianco were also consulted, as well as two directors of the education department and teachers from Quezon province.

"Then we called in Tagalog experts," Roco said.

The pledge of allegiance, the English precursor of the Panatang Makabayan was first recited in 1939 by students upon orders of the then Department of Instruction.

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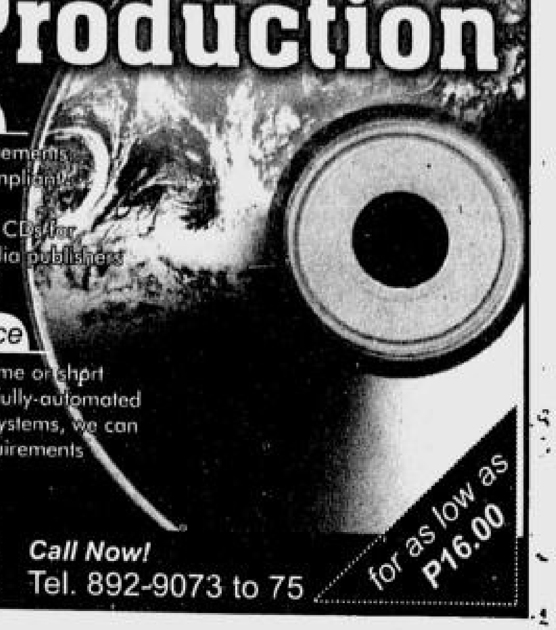

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Garchitorena takes self off Badoy brod's case

By Volt Contreras

SANDIGANBAYAN Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena yesterday announced that he had inhibited himself from a graft case involving a brother of Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy.

Garchitorena, chair of the anti-graft court's first division, declared himself out of the 1997 case pending against Solomon Badoy "in order to avoid any suspicion, misrepresentation and misimpression of any event which might take place in the (case)." He said he came to this decision in light of "recent events" that, he noted, had "affected (his) relationship" with the associate justice.

Garchitorena was referring to his and the associate justice's public exchange of harsh words that Chief Justice Hilario Davide eventually ordered stopped.

Solomon Badoy is accused of misappropriating funds of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, to which then President Fidel Ramos had appointed him.

He was charged by the Ombudsman in December 1997 and arraigned for the graft case in July 1999.

He continues to hold a government position under the present administration, this time as a re-appointed trustee of the Local Water Utilities Administration.

Solomon Badoy's case will be sent back to the Sandiganbayan's docket section for raffling to another division, Garchitorena said.

15 months after Jakarta attack, Caday carries on

By Cynthia D. Balana

CADAY after the bombing.

JAKARTA (via PLDT)—Fifteen months ago, Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Leonides Caday was a picture of excruciating pain as the Indonesian police raced against time to save his life from the bombing attack on his residence here.

Incredibly, the 71-year-old Caday survived the attack. Yesterday, he was still fighting to walk on both feet to welcome visiting President Macapagal-Arroyo upon her arrival at the Halim Perdakusuma Airport for a two-day state visit.

He was being moved in a wheelchair from the airport to the Istana Merdeka (presidential palace) by security aides for the welcome ceremony tendered by Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

On Monday night, Caday was able to walk a little with the help of a cane when he paid a courtesy call on the President at the Hyatt Hotel where the presidential entourage stayed.

"Well, I'm a bit well now but my movements have been affected," Caday told Manila newsmen during a late night talk with the President.

A year to go

Caday, however, said that he immediately came back to the embassy to discharge his functions as chief of mission after recuperating from multiple fractures on both legs.

He still has a year more before his three-year tour of duty ends.

"At first, it was difficult. But as soon as I recuperated, I went back to the embassy to do my job," he told the INQUIRER.

The powerful blast completely destroyed Caday's car and damaged his house as well as other buildings nearby.

Caday's driver was seriously injured but an Indonesian security guard and an Indonesian domestic helper from a nearby house was killed.

Earlier reports here said that the explosion was caused by a huge amount of C4, an explosive that is more powerful and lethal than TNT.

The C4 was loaded into a vehicle just outside the gates of Caday's residence on Imam Bonjol Street in Menteng district in central Jakarta.

Explosives experts from the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation came to assist Indonesian police in the investigation of the bombing attack but Caday said the result was limited to the cause of the explosion and kind of explosive used.

Still investigating

Until now, he said, the Indonesian police is still investigating the case and has not arrested suspects in the crime.

Back home, police officials theorized that the attack was the handiwork of people linked to the seccessionist group Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which was suffering heavy military losses at that time.

The truce recently forged between the government and the MILF is still holding, according to President Macapagal.

Caday did not hide his displeasure over the slow pace of the Indonesian police investigation.

"I think I have expressed my dissatisfaction because I've been following it up almost every month and they said the same—nothing," Caday told the INQUIRER.

"In fact, we went directly to the police already but when you go direct to the police, they would say that they will course their report to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here said they will get in touch," he added.

Caday said the police here could not provide any leads as to the culprits and that even the FBI report was not able to provide any conclusive evidence as to the kind and source of the explosive used in the attack.

House forms panel to money laundering body

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE HOUSE of Representatives yesterday named its panel to the congressional oversight committee that will oversee the implementation of the newly enacted Anti-Money Laundering Law.

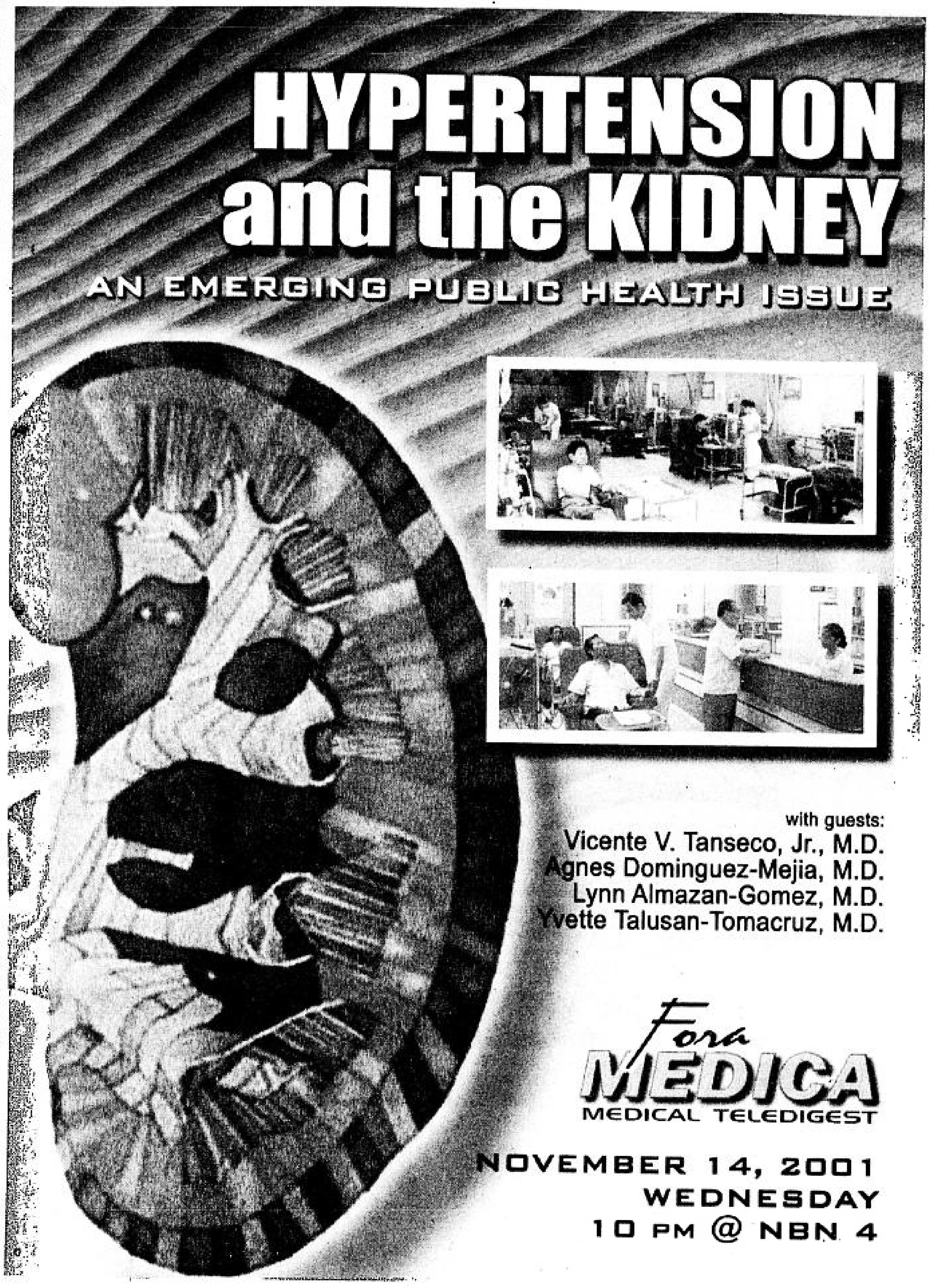
Speaker Jose de Venecia said the seven-man House panel will be composed of Representatives Jaime Lopez, chair of the House committee on banks; Oscar Moreno, economic affairs committee chair; Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar; Teodoro Locsin Jr. of Makati City; and Jose Carlos Lacson of Negros Occidental.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen and Zamboanga City Rep. Celso Lobregat will represent the House minority in the panel.

"We shall implement to the letter provisions requiring prompt action by Congress, especially on the creation of the oversight panel," De Venecia said in a statement.

Republic Act 9160, signed on Sept. 30 this year, defined the crime of money laundering and prescribed penalties and procedures to stem the flow of money earned from illegal activities into the banking and financial system.

An Anti-Money Laundering Council composed of the governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as governor and the chairs of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Insurance Commission as members has the power to look into suspect accounts.



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Minority solons on 2002 budget: We did our best

By Christine Avendaño

THE HOUSE minority yesterday said that it had done its best in seeking the scrapping of the approval on second reading of the P80.8-billion national budget bill for 2002, following the majority's rejection of its motion the other night.

"It's useless (to push for the reconsideration of the bill's approval on second reading in the House)... because of the tyranny of the majority," Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen told the INQUIRER yesterday.

But all may not be lost yet for the minority as Dilangalen said the group will await the measure's approval on final reading next week before determining its next action, which may include elevating its case before the Supreme Court.

The minority had earlier aired plans to go to the high court to question the legality of the Oct. 26 session where the House approved the budget bill on second reading when it contended that Congress had already adjourned.

But on Monday night, majority of the 149 congressmen who attended the session voted against the minority's motion seeking the House to reconsider the Oct. 26 approval of the budget bill on second reading.

Appeal rejected

The congressmen also voted against the appeal on the vote's outcome which the minority immediately lodged.

Before a vote was taken on the floor, Speaker Jose de Venecia announced to reporters Monday night that the majority members unanimously voted against the expected bid of the minority to file a motion for reconsideration of the budget bill's approval on second reading.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said the minority was resorting to "dilatory" tactics in pressing for a motion to reconsideration.

Gonzales revealed that before a vote was taken on the motion made by the minority, an informal meeting was held Monday between majority and minority leaders led by De Venecia and House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla.

He said the minority sought for the reconsideration of the budget bill's approval in exchange for its cooperation for the passage of the bill on final reading and the "restoration of harmony" in the House.

Gonzales said that the minority was trying to save face and justify the position it has taken on the budget bill.

But Dilangalen said the informal meeting was an initiative of De Venecia and that the minority's proposal was not a face saving move.

"It was a win-win solution for everybody because we want to correct a mistake," Dilangalen said.

SAFETY NET FUNDS

Search is on for missing ₱4.3B

By Rocky Nazareno

THE SEARCH is on for the P4.3 billion missing from the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF).

This was disclosed by Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the committee on agriculture, who said that the committee will be summoning officials of the Bureau of Customs, Department of Agriculture and Department of Budget and Management in a bid to find the missing funds.

"Initially, I don't think there could be malversation but it could be more of a diversion," said Villar.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, former agriculture secretary, affirmed that the P4.3 billion "could have just been diverted to the DA's general fund."

"That is why we need these (BOC, DA and DBM) officials to help us trace where these funds went," Villar said.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña had earlier filed a resolution, seeking an investigation into the P4.3 billion missing from the Bureau of Treasury since the government started collecting tariffs and charges on the importation of sensitive agricultural products in 1996.

Osmeña said the inquiry will look into why P250.8 million of the estimated P4.6 billion in ACEF have been accounted for by the Bureau of Treasury.

"This means that there is a shortage of P4.3 billion which could have been appropriated to bankroll the implementation of various vital agricultural modernization programs," said Osmeña, former chair of the Senate committee on agriculture.

The ACEF was created by Republic Act 8178 which was instituted to minimize the effects of the country's accession to the World Trade Organization.

RA 8178 provided for the imposition of minimum access volumes (MAVs) for certain sensitive agricultural products which would be increased every year.

Tariffs were collected on the importation of these products once they exceed the MAV.

The proceeds would then go to the ACEF to help the agricultural sector become viable, efficient and globally competitive.

Under the implementing guidelines on the utilization of the ACEF, the fund shall be classified as an "unprogrammed fund" under the general appropriations act and deposited first with the National Treasury.

But, quoting a source from the Department of Agriculture MAV secretariat, Osmeña said the actual import licenses issued for the years 1996 to 2001 have reached P4.6 billion.

"However, the total available fund as certified by the Bureau of Treasury amounts only to P250,791,740. So where is the rest of it?" he asked.

Osmeña said the missing P4.3 billion "will prejudice the interest of the farmers who would otherwise have benefited from the projects and programs that could have been funded by ACEF."

"We have to inquire into it and possibly come up with necessary reforms to prevent delays in the implementation of the vital agricultural projects being funded by the money or misuse of the funds," Osmeña said.

RP urges Taiwan to defer hiring law

THE GOVERNMENT has asked the Taiwan Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) to defer the application of its new employment laws to overseas Filipino workers in the territory.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration head Rosalinda Baldoz said the new policy, which allows employers to collect up to $4,000 NT from overseas workers, have not been disseminated in the Philippines yet.

Baldoz asked the CLA to set a grace period until Dec. 1 pending the issuance of new POEA procedures to adopt the new policies, as well as sufficient information dissemination among OFWs.

The POEA chief stressed the "need to inform departing workers of the revised CLA regulations to guide them in their decision to work in Taiwan based on fully disclosed terms and conditions of employment.

After Hong Kong, Taiwan is the largest destination of OFWs in the Asia Pacific, with some 80,000 Filipinos working in the dominantly Chinese country.

Baldoz signed on Monday a memorandum circular informing all Filipinos bound for Taiwan of the new laws that would govern migrant workers starting Nov. 9.

The revised laws of the CLA Taiwan manpower agencies can deduct as much as $4,000 (NT) from the wages of its foreign employees for food and accommodation.

The amount to be deducted would depend on negotiations between employer and worker, who also pays the annual alien residence certificate fee and medical examination fees twice a year, monthly labor and insurance fees, and income taxes.

The POEA memorandum circular will be published in a major newspaper and will take effect after 50 days.

UP Law Homecoming

THE UP Law Alumni Homecoming for the year 2001 will be held on Nov. 23, at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Hosted by the Class of 1976, this year's Silver Jubilarians, the annual event will be highlighted by the keynote address of Senate President Franklin M. Drilon. The UP College of Law, now on its 90th year, will also honor the following celebrating classes: 1941, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996.

Victoria de los Reyes, president of the UP Law Alumni Association, said that Class '76 will come out with a yearbook to mark the event.

The host class promises a unique and different yearbook and program from those of previous years. A special entertainment extravaganza topbilled by Verni Varga, Ariel Rivera and Calvin Millado will be staged at the reunion while a live band will play the music of the '70s.

For tickets, alumni may call their respective class representatives or the UPLAA Secretariat at Tel. Nos. 815-8843/840-3783.

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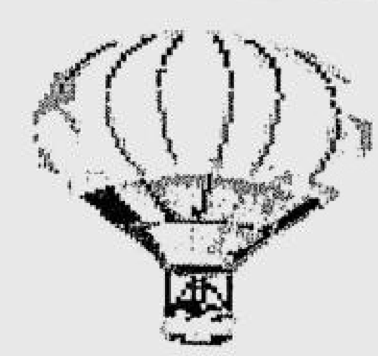

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TECHNOFORUM TOPICS (SEMINAR ROOM 1)
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Title: "EQUIPMENT OPERATION & MANAGEMENT"
REGISTRATION: (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)
Topic 1 (9:00 - 12:00 noon) RISK MANAGEMENT & BASIC RIGGING PLAN By: Mike Miller
Session 2: (1:30 - 4:30 p.m.) EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S COURSE By: Association of Carriers & Equipment Lessors, Inc. (Florello P. Quianzon-ACEL Past President & Panel of Experts)
Session 3: (4:30 - 6:00 p.m.) EXTENDED PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE INTERVAL By: Desmond Teo - Donaldson Company
CLOSING REMARKS: (6:00 - 6:15 p.m.) By: Kit A.R. Angeles, ACEL President, J. V. Angeles Construction Corp.

NOVEMBER 17, 2001 (SATURDAY) • SEMINAR FEE: P1,000.00
Title: "COST & QUALITY OPTIMIZATION OF CONCRETE"
REGISTRATION: (8:00 - 9:00 a.m.)
Topic 1: (9:00 - 10:00 a.m.) CONCRETE PERFORMANCE CONTROL By: Dr. Benito Pacheco - Vibrometrics, Inc.
Topic 2: (10:30 - 11:30 a.m.) AGGREGATES By: Felipe T. Sibal, Jr. - EEI-Philrock
Topic 3: (1:00 - 2:00 p.m.) ADMIXTURES By: Hedy U. Barretto - Philprime Chemical Corp.
Topic 4 (2:15 - 3:15 p.m.) TROUBLESHOOTING CONCRETE PROBLEMS By: Francis C. Felizardo - Union Cement
Topic 5: (3:30 - 5:00 p.m.) ON-SITE TESTING OF CEMENT COMPONENTS & THEIR INFLUENCE ON CEMENT FACTOR By: Hernani S. Paslon - Lafarge Cement Services (Phils.), Inc./PHILCEMCOR
CLOSING REMARKS: (5:15 - 5:30 p.m.) By: Justo E. Manalo, PCA President, J. E. Manalo & Co., Inc.

PRODUCT DEMO SCHEDULE (STAGE AREA)

NOVEMBER 15, THURSDAY	
01:00-02:00	High Rise Publication
02:00-0300	Gemeco Metal Corporation - "Kitchen Solution for the Construction Industry"
03:00-04:00	IcFOX Philippines, Inc. "Inter-net based Applications for Construction Industry Processes"
04:00-05:00	Sika Philippines Inc.
05:00-06:00	EEI Corporation
NOVEMBER 16, FRIDAY	
11:00-12:00	Tri-Little Dragon Ceramics
01:00-0 2:00	Decopro Inc. "Actual Demonstration on How to Install and Apply Decopro Products"
02:00-03:00	Global Brands
03:00-04:00	Donaldson Filtration (Asia Pacific) Pte. - "Donaldson Filtration's New Ways to Reduce Engine Maintenance Cost"
04:00-05:00	American Technologies Inc.
05:00-06:00	King's Shoe Manufacturing Phils., Inc.
NOVEMBER 17, SATURDAY	
10:00-11:00	EEI Corporation
11:00-12:00	Habitat for Humanity Phils. - "Per Square Meter"
01:00-02:00	Pozzolanic Phil. Inc.
02:00-03:00	Penta-Isles, Inc. - "Titan Airless Spray Painting Demo"
03:00-04:00	Solar gard Phils Corp
04:00-05:00	Scaffold Tech Services Corporation - "Polyshield 55-100: State of the Art Waterproofing Coatings"
05:00-06:00	Taytan International Corporation

Participants as of Nov. 12, 2001
A.V.D MARKETING CORP ✧ ACECAD SOFTWARE ✧ ACEG STEEL PRODUCTS, INC/POLYON - BARKAI ✧ ADCO BLUE CONSTRUCTION & TRADING CORP ✧ ALENSON TRADE CORP ✧ ALLGEMEINE-BAU-CHEMIE PHIL., INC ✧ ALUFORM INDUSTRIES, INC. ✧ AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC./LATICE NETWORKS INC ✧ ANDERSON ASPHALT (Hongkong) ✧ ANYTHING ENTERPRISES ✧ AQUA TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CORP ✧ ARCHIKONST/QUARTER GROUP PUBLISHING ✧ ARTLIGHT EXPRESS ✧ ASIA INDUSTRIES MATERIAL HANDLING EQPMNT ✧ ASIACO ENT. INT'L CORP ✧ ASSOCIATION OF CARRIERS & EQUIPMENT LESSORS, INC (ACEL) ✧ ASTRAL POOL INTERNATIONAL (Spain) ✧ ATLANTA INDUSTRIES ✧ AUTOMATION & SECURITY INC. ✧ BJC ENTERPRISES PTY LTD ✧ BISAZZA ✧ BLUPRINT MAGAZINE ✧ CICG INTERNATIONAL TRADE CORPORATION ✧ CAMP MKTG & DEV'T. INC. ✧ CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILS. ✧ CENTURY CHEMICAL ✧ CHARTER CHEMICAL CORPORATION ✧ CITIZEN'S MASS MEDIA ✧ CIVIC MERCHANDISING ✧ COFTA MOULDING CORPORATION ✧ COLEMAN ASIA ✧ COLENT ENTERPRISE COMPANY ✧ CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ✧ CONSTRUCTION MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (CMDF) ✧ CONSTRUCTION TODAY ✧ COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS OF THE PHILIPPINES (CECOPHIL) ✧ DAEDONG URETHANE, INC ✧ DN STEEL GROUP OF COMPANIES ✧ DTI-BUREAU OF PRODUCT STANDARDS ✧ DURALCO INC ✧ EEI CORPORATION ✧ EYPph CORPORATION ✧ EASTERN WIRE MANUFACTURING INC ✧ ELEKTROWERK, INC ✧ EMERALD VINYL CORP ✧ ENGELHART MFG CORP ✧ ERGONOMIC SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES, INC ✧ ETERION MULTI-RESOURCES CORP ✧ FW NICOL PHILIPPINES INC ✧ FAIRE INTERNATIONAL TRADER ✧ FELPORT INTERNATIONAL MARKETING ✧ FEON INTERIORS ✧ FIBERLITE INC ✧ FORMAPLY INDUSTRIES, INC Trading Division ✧ FORMAPLY INDUSTRIES, INC ✧ FOREST HOME DEPOT ✧ FREYSSINET ✧ GLOBAL BRANDS CO. INC ✧ GLOBAL PRODUCTS ✧ GOMECO METAL CORP/MULTI MACH INT'L ✧ HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PHILS FOUNDATION, INC ✧ HAFELE PHILIPPINES, INC ✧ HANDYWARE PHILIPPINES, INC/COLUMBIA MACHINE INC ✧ HIGH RISE PUBLICATION ✧ HOME IDEAS ✧ ITWASIA (PTE) LTD. ✧ INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATED ELECT'L ENGRS OF THE PHILS (IIEE) ✧ INTELLIGENT TRAFFIC SYSTEMS, INC ✧ INTERNATIONAL HEAVY EQUIPMENT CORP (IHEC) ✧ JKFS ENTERPRISES ✧ JETRO MANILA (JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION) ✧ K-PLAST INC. ✧ KING SHOE MFG PHILS., INC. ✧ KENNETH & MOCK DESIGNS, INC ✧ KENT INDUSTRIAL CORP ✧ LATICRETE INT'L PACIFIC (PTE) LTD (Singapore) ✧ LATTICE NETWORKS, INC /AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES INC. ✧ LEPANTO CERAMICS, INC ✧ LIMSON MARKETING ✧ MOF COMPANY (SUBIC), INC ✧ MANILA RUBBER CORP. ✧ MAYSAN CASTING CORPORATION ✧ MAYON CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY ✧ MEDIAHOUSE PUBLICATIONS SDN BHD ✧ MEGA PERFORMANCE HOUSEWARES CO. LTD ✧ MEGA SYSTEM ENTERPRISES ✧ METSO MINERALS PHILIPPINES, INC ✧ MONARK FOUNDATION ✧ MULTI RICH HOME DECOR INC. ✧ NELTEX DEV'T. CO., INC. ✧ NEW KAWARA INC ✧ NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION ✧ NORTHWEST STEEL ✧ OPTIMUS SPACE SOLUTIONS, INC. ✧ OUTSTRIP CORPORATION/SUN POWER CERAMICS ✧ PT INTIKERAMIK ALAMASRI INDUSTRI (Indonesia) ✧ PACIFIC PAINT & OIL MFG INC ✧ PAG-ASA STEEL WORKS, INC ✧ PARIS BUILDERS, INC. ✧ PENTA-ISLES INC ✧ PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ✧ PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION, INC (PCA) ✧ PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ARBITRATION COMMISSION ✧ PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER ✧ PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS ✧ POWERS ELECTRIC CORP ✧ POZZOLANIC PHILIPPINES INC ✧ PRIT ENTERPRISES INC. ✧ PUYAT STEEL CORPORATION ✧ PUYAT VINYL PRODUCTS, INC ✧ RQG MARKETING CORP. ✧ RHINO SYSTEMS INC ✧ RIAN COMMERCIAL ✧ RIVIERA FILIPINA INC. ✧ RODCLAY ROOFING, INC ✧ RUBYCOMM ✧ STA. BARBARA PUBLISHING CORP ✧ SANDVIK TAMROCK PHILS., INC ✧ SCAFF SYSTEM MFG INC ✧ SICCION MARKETING, INC ✧ SIKA PHILIPPINES INC. ✧ SILIKAL GMBH & CO. KG. ✧ SKYMART ENTERPRISE ✧ SMART TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS, CORP ✧ SOCIETY OF PHIL ELECT'L CONTRACTORS & SUPPLIERS ASSOC (SPECS) ✧ SOLAR GARD PHILS. ✧ SPECS SOURCEBOOK ✧ SPURWAY ENTERPRISES ✧ STEELASIA MFG CORP ✧ STONEWORKS SPECIALISTS INT'L CORP ✧ SUERTE STEEL CORPORATION ✧ SUNRISE HOLIDAY CONCEPTS, INC ✧ SUPRA SYSTEMS (PHILS) INC ✧ SYMEX PHIL COMMERCIAL VENTURES/FALCON TECHNICAL SERVICES SYN YAO ENT. CO. LTD ✧ TGRAF ✧ TAGAYUN ASSOCIATES ✧ TAYTAN INTERNATIONAL CORP. ✧ TEAM ASIA CORPORATION TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION PROMOTION SYSTEM ✧ TECHNORESINS INDUSTRIAL INC. ✧ TERESA MARBLE CORP. ✧ THE BRAIN COMPUTER CORP ✧ THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILS ✧ TIMBAL MARBLE ✧ TOTAL 2000 CORPORATION ✧ TRADE LINK MEDIA ✧ TREND (F.E.) PUBLISHING & PROMOTIONS CENTER ✧ TRI-LITTLE DRAGON CERAMICS ✧ TRENDWAY BUILDERS, INC ✧ WILFORM INC. ✧ WIRTGEN PHILIPPINES, INC ✧ WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

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OPINION

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Founding Chairman

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Blair watch

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who just returned from a two-day visit to Indonesia, was scheduled to meet last night with Adm. Dennis Blair, commander in chief of the US Pacific Command. Blair is deeply involved in the US-led "war against terrorism" in Afghanistan and Ms Macapagal is leaving for the United States today on an official visit. So the question on everyone's lips is: What urgent business could have brought them together at a rather inconvenient time for both of them?

The President has said she expected Blair to report on the findings of the 26-member team of US anti-terrorist experts who observed last month the military operations in Basilan against the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers who are still holding hostage 10 people, including two American missionaries. Malacañang seems to have received advance notice that the US team had nothing but praise for the Filipino military officers handling the campaign. "They are really, really very impressed with our commanders there," Ms Macapagal said last week.

If that was all Blair had to say last night, he need not have bothered. Top Filipino officials, both civilian and military, have been saying the same thing. Outside of the administration, however, very few are impressed. For if the commanders are so good, how come they haven't been able to free all the hostages and capture or kill Khadafy Janjalani, Abu Sabaya and the other leaders of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu?

In fact, the government has been promising an early solution to the crisis almost from the time it began with the abduction last May of 21 vacationists and workers at the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan. Last Monday, the chief of the Southern Command, Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, said the crisis was nearing its end since the number of Abu Sayyaf was dwindling. National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said almost the same thing last month when he promised that military would recover all the hostages before the month was over. And much earlier in June, Ms Macapagal made her now-famous boast that it would take just one more bullet to finish off the Abu Sayyaf.

Plain talk and a candid appraisal, not flattery, are what Blair should have given if he wanted to help. Otherwise there is little hope of ever ending the constant threat that the Abu Sayyaf poses.

More than talk, what the Philippines sorely needs are better weapons and war materiel. Filipino officials apparently made no effort to hide the inadequacy and poor condition of the arms and equipment they are using against the Abu Sayyaf. In fact, they were expecting Blair to bring up in his talk with the President the poor quality of military communications facilities, the limited mobility of the troops and other problems resulting from maintaining a poorly equipped Armed Forces. The expectation, of course, is that the United States will put its money where its mouth is. After all, US officials have linked the Abu Sayyaf to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terrorist network. And they have vowed to dismantle its cells wherever they may exist.

To crush the Abu Sayyaf, the Philippine government doesn't need smart bombs and multimillion-dollar delivery systems. Neither would it need US soldiers. But at the very least, it needs better equipment than what the Abu Sayyaf has. For instance, the police and the military must have seacraft that can catch up with the swift boats, powered by Volvo engines, that the Abu Sayyaf has been using for its kidnapping forays and for escape. Having those fast boats will boost not only its capacity to pursue the bandits but also the morale of soldiers and policemen who are often reduced to wringing their hands in frustration when the bandits take flight by sea.

Unless the AFP and the PNP can get such basic equipment fast, Filipinos, and especially those living in some parts of Mindanao, will continue to be afraid—very afraid.

Criminal jokes

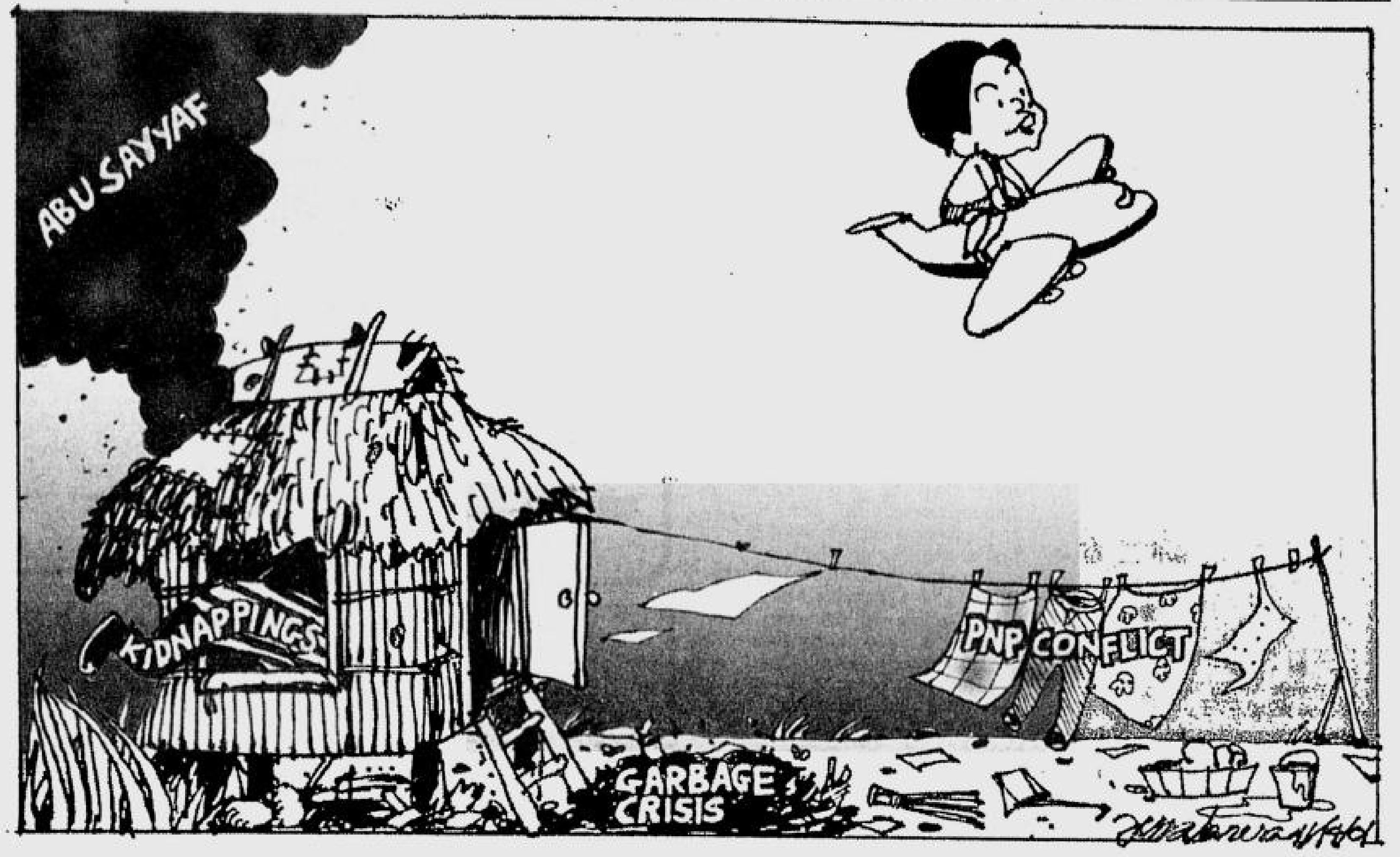
FOREIGN COMMENT

THERE are sick jokes, and then there are sick jokes that are criminal. A most encouraging front-page story in many newspapers recently concerned a number of arrests for anthrax hoaxes.

From 9 a.m. on Sept. 11 to this very minute, our law enforcement and public safety agencies have been operating under extreme duress. Officers are working long hours under very difficult conditions. They don't have time for investigating a possible case of anthrax that turns out to be powdered sugar allegedly put in an envelope by a couple of college students in Kentucky.

This country, too, has frayed nerves from the terrorist attacks and real cases of bioterrorism. Each suspected case adds to the anxiety of Americans who have reacted quite commendably to the tragic events of Sept. 11.

These hoaxes aren't remotely funny. They're criminal acts. Recent arrests and others should send a strong, unequivocal message to people who need to get a life. *The Greenville News (Greenville, South Carolina)*



Requiem for a decaying metropolis

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I WAS interviewed briefly on Channel 4 last Monday on urban decay and the transportation congestion in Metro Manila but the topics are so big and complex that we hardly scratched the surface. So here's more, as briefly as possible.

It is ironic that the answer to the traffic problem, the elevated light rail transit, is also one of the causes of urban decay. The LRT was conceived to move great numbers of people quickly to lessen the number of vehicles congesting the streets below. Not only did the LRT not decongest the streets, it made Rizal Avenue and the sidewalks below dark and dingy—and scary. Business moved out to Ayala, Pasig, Greenhills, Ortigas, Rockwell, Eastwood and other newer and more modern commercial centers.

Avenida Rizal, Recto, Sta. Cruz, Escolta, Quiapo, Carriedo used to be the downtown section of Manila. The biggest moviehouses, department stores, restaurants and business offices were concentrated there. It was fun to walk there day and night, with all the bright lights and twinkling neon signs. Not anymore. That "downtown" section is now dead, the buildings unsightly and crumbling. It is even dangerous to walk there, with pickpockets and snatchers everywhere. Manila has no downtown section anymore.

It is not only Manila's downtown that is decaying but the rest of it except Rizal Park, the only open space where one can breathe fresh air and feel free because of the wide expanse of Manila Bay. In fact, most of Metro Manila is decaying. The modern, glass and steel, spic-and-span shopping malls are only in the commercial centers of the different cities and municipalities composing the metropolis. The rest of them outside of the upscale residential subdivision are rundown.

The Metrorail on Edsa will not have as bad an effect as the first LRT along Rizal and Taft Avenues because Edsa is wide enough, but the elevated rails along narrow Aurora Boulevard and Recto will most certainly darken the streets below and effectively kill them, too.

A monorail instead of the two-track light rail would have been better because the overhead edifice is narrower and wouldn't cast such a big shadow on the streets, sidewalks and stores below. A subway is even better but it is out of the question because of Metro Manila's high water table and the enormous cost, as well as the traffic chaos its construction would cause.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza is trying some urban renewal on Plaza Miranda and Liwasang Bonifacio (although he is killing the old Mehan Garden with his capricious Park and Ride building) but his effort is like the light of a single firefly during a Luzon-wide blackout.

There is no development and renewal plan for the whole of Metro Manila although the sprawling and still expanding megalopolis badly needs one. Former Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. had the Palafox outfit do one, but it is not known if current Mayor Feliciano Belmonte will implement it. Quezon City as the Capital City had a beautiful plan modeled after Paris and Washington, D.C. It was commissioned by President Manuel Quezon but succeeding presidents mangled the plan and now the Capital City is just the squatter capital of the Philippines.

The decay of Metro Manila will continue unless the national government (the Metro Manila Development Authority under the present leadership is not capable of doing anything) does something drastic to arrest the decay, preserve old sections that need to be preserved (like the old houses on R. Hidalgo), and renew sections that have to be renewed.

Old, by the way, is not necessarily bad. In the United States today, the rage is to preserve old sections of towns and cities and turn them into tourist spots. In California and all along the East Coast and in Virginia, the most popular tourist spots are the old towns. The old houses are refurbished and spruced up and turned into shops. The quaint little houses around them are converted into bed-and-breakfast inns. In most of these areas, property owners and developers are given tax discounts and other incentives to spruce up their properties. We can do the same thing here.

* * *

Yesterday, Nov. 13, was the first anniversary of an important event that changed the course of history in the Philippines. That day started a series of dizzying events that culminated in the downfall of one president and the ascension of another. That was the day one year ago when then Speaker Manuel Villar banged the gavel at the House of Representatives to mark the first ever impeachment of a head of state in Asia.

The beginning of the end for the Estrada administration actually began many days earlier, on All Saints' day, to be exact. That was when Villar, casting aside personal political interest for what he believed to be in the nation's best interest, decided to break away from the ruling party.

Villar began calling up other congressmen, telling them of his plan and asking for their support. Close to 40 House members followed his lead. When before there were only 36 signatories to the impeachment complaint, much less than the required 73 representing one-third of the House for the complaint to be elevated to the Senate, Villar led a mass exodus, with he himself being the 73rd signatory. In the end, 120 congressmen signed the complaint.

These events led to the historic 13th day of November when Villar, after opening the session with a prayer, went on to read the impeachment complaint continuously, passing it to the Senate.

This cost Villar the speakership but earned him the respect and admiration of the Filipino people. It also earned him a seat in the present Senate. (On second thought, considering the lack of quality of some of his colleagues, there, is it a feather in his cap that he is part of that Senate?)

Wrong conception

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

YOU would think that as you grow older, you would grow wiser. But late in life, Raul Concepcion, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries, has discovered only the apparent wisdom of Lee Kuan Yew.

"We have achieved very little since the end of World War II because we engage in too much politics and too little in good government," he told the press last week. "This is the best time to reflect on whether our free-wheeling democracy and press are a deterrent to growth." Other countries, like Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, he said, had marched ahead by keeping their politics and media in check. He urged President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to use the upcoming National Economic Summit as an occasion for "soul searching" in this respect.

Let us put the media aside for the moment, and concentrate on the part about democracy. Concepcion misses the point entirely. The problem is not that we have a free-wheeling democracy, it is that we have a democracy whose wheel is stuck. It is not that we have too much democracy, it is that we have too little of it. That is why we have achieved so little since the end of World War II. That is where we ought to direct our soul-searching.

What we have in fact are formal freedoms, which are the elements that Concepcion—and Lee—not entirely wrongly sees as open to abuse. Though even here, one can always argue that they are far more preferable having in their abused form than not at all. Free elections, notwithstanding that they draw in like magnet movie stars and basketball players; press freedom, notwithstanding that it falls prey to sensationalism and corruption; and civil liberties, notwithstanding that they allow the rich to thwart justice; all these are infinitely preferable to leaders who rule for life, to a press that is free only to praise those leaders, to enemies of the state being arrested without warrant and kept in jail without being charged.

If there were no free press, Concepcion would not have been able to apprise his fellow Filipinos of his thoughts. And if there were no civil liberties, he would not have been able to disagree with current wisdom, as his twin brother discovered during martial law. More than that, to say that these freedoms deter growth and progress—even if you grant that this is true—is to be monumentally confused about ends and means. Growth and progress are not the end, they are the means. Their end is freedom.

But quite apart from those formal freedoms, we have very little resembling democracy. If you think of democracy as a political order that allows general social mobility, that allows the poor access to opportunity, that rewards work with just pay, then we do not have a democracy at all. What we have is its exact opposite. As indeed Filipino leaders have been saying as far back as Independence Day, though only when they were not in power. What we have is a society spectacularly rived into rich and poor—Ninoy Aquino's words—the first enjoying mind-boggling privileges, and the second enduring even more mind-boggling deprivation. "Social volcano" was the term the same Filipino leaders often used to warn of the dire consequences of this situation, a seething magma pushing to the surface and ready to explode.

"Edsa III," among other things, showed that that warning ought to be taken deathly seriously, now more than ever. That complex event also quite incidentally revealed the dazzling paradox of Philippine democracy, the masses quite democratically utilizing one of this country's formal freedoms, the right of assembly, to protest—in the end, violently—the completely undemocratic underpinnings of Philippine society, manifested in the spectacular, and increasingly unbridgeable, gap between rich and poor.

That is the reason we have achieved very little since the end of World War II, the reticence of this country's elite, whether they are landlords or industrialists, traders or manufacturers, to part with the least of their wealth to benefit the rest of the nation. The mildest effort to reform the land is met with the most violent opposition, and a law to that effect ends up being riddled with holes. The tamest effort to raise wages is met with the most frenzied protestations, and a law to that effect is laden with exceptions. What we have in lieu of social justice is individual charity, the rich moving to gag the volcano by regaling the world with acts of personal benefaction.

The culture itself resonates with breathtaking privilege on one hand and unbelievable deprivation on the other. Where else but in this country will you find congressmen and senators being escorted in Metro Manila's tangled traffic by a group of motorcycle cops, who keep waving the world aside like Moses parting the Red Sea? I've always thought corruption itself was a function of this culture that sanctions privilege. It is not merely that the corrupt has nothing to fear about being caught, it is that he regards corruption as a natural part of his pelf and perk. Landlords have exorbitant rent, businessmen have exorbitant profit, government officials have "tribute," in the form of taxpayer's money.

No, it is not in our abundance of democracy that we are underlings, it is in our lack of it. That won't be cured by the application of authoritarian discipline, which in any case is not the reason for the success of other Asian countries. The success of countries like Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand does not owe to authoritarian discipline, it owes to a tremendous sense of country on the part of their elite and people. The Malaysian and Thai elites at least are no less corrupt than their Filipino counterparts. The only difference is, they do not bring out the money, they do not think of killing the goose that lays golden eggs, they do not think of ruining their country completely because they can always leave it and live in America.

But that is another story, or column.

Prayer without 'amen'

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

YESTERDAY marked the anniversary of one of the turning points of the impeachment of deposed President Joseph Estrada—the endorsement of the articles of impeachment by the House of Representatives to the Senate. For the first time since the inauguration of the transitional Philippine Commonwealth government in 1935, an impeachment complaint against a Filipino president prospered, although after World War II, there were attempts to impeach several presidents, all of which were knocked back in the House.

This report reconstructs the inside story of the events that made possible the transmittal to the Senate of the impeachment complaint against Estrada. When a verified complaint was filed on Oct. 18, 2000, by Representatives Heherson Alvarez and Ernesto Herrera, and several leaders of civil society organizations, accusing Estrada of corruption, betrayal of pubic trust and culpable violation of the Constitution, the complaint was not given much chance to take off. The complaint was signed by 36 people. It required at least 73 signatures by congressmen, representing one-third of the House membership. Estrada's LAMP coalition was in control of the House.

The complaint flowed from the charges aired by former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson on Oct. 5, alleging that Estrada took millions of pesos in bribes from *jueteng* (illegal gambling) pay-offs. The complaint was referred to the committee on justice on Oct. 23. By Nov. 6, the complaint had snowballed, when the committee approved the resolutions of endorsement of 77 House members—four more than the required number. The swing came after Speaker Manuel Villar pulled out from LAMP more than 40 congressmen who composed Lakas, the largest bloc in the Estrada coalition, and who signed the resolutions. This generated a stampede. The resolutions collected 120 signatures.

Villar decided to defect on Nov. 3 after reading the political signs that Estrada was fast losing the support of key sectors, including the business community, the Catholic church and the civil society organizations.

That day was a stormy day, politically as well as meteorologically. The political ground was shifting swiftly under the feet of Estrada. On that day, reports swept the nation that Estrada was on the verge of resigning and his economic managers were poised to resign after the senior economic advisers (from the private sector) handed in resignations. Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators Nikki Coseteng and Rodolfo Biazon announced their desertion from LAMP amid a storm ripping through Manila toward Hong Kong. The senators converged with Villar at the Edsa Shrine, where a big rally had assembled, to announce their defection from the coalition. It was "black Saturday" for Estrada, as the leaders of both houses of Congress abandoned him.

Estrada read the writing on the wall. He moved to replace Villar as Speaker. He offered the speakership to Rep. Ed Gullas, then to Rep. Alfredo Abueg. They turned down the offer. The president tried to talk to Villar, but he had gone on Retreat.

On Nov. 6, the committee on justice decided to release the committee on justice report on impeachment, laying the basis for formal impeachment action. On Tuesday, Nov. 13, the House resumed session after a two-week break. Villar plotted the strategy of getting the impeachment articles through the House without being derailed. He consulted trusted colleagues—among them Minority Leader Feliciano Belmonte; Abueg, chair of the committee on rules; and Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, an authority on constitutional law—on how best to pass the impeachment resolution.

Villar's plan was to read the prayer—an unprecedented act by a Speaker—followed by reading the articles of impeachment and declaring its transmittal to the Senate. Villar told Belmonte, "Sonny, I will read the prayer and read the articles non-stop." Belmonte gave an enigmatic half smile and nodded his head slightly.

When Villar opened the session, he immediately read the customary prayers. He said he made the prayers long because he wanted to catch his colleagues off guard, knowing they "don't listen to prayers." It was the longest prayer heard in the House. Villar did not conclude the prayer with "amen." He merely asked the members to "please sit down." He then read the report of the committee on justice containing the articles of impeachment. The reading was done so rapidly that he had read a third of the article before the members realized he was not saying the prayers any more.

Rep. Harlin Abayon stood up and shouted to raise a point of order. Villar ignored Abayon and kept on reading the articles. After reading the impeachment complaint and directing its transmittal to the Senate, he suspended the session. The public galleries and the session hall were plunged into a commotion. The galleries exploded in a demonstration applauding swift referral of the complaint. When Deputy Speaker Abueg took the chair to resume the session, Rep. Sergio Apostol began nominating the members of the prosecution panel. No one objected to the nominations. The House seemed too stunned to realize immediately the historic impact of its action. Villar's group had planned that no ally of Estrada should be a member of the prosecution panel.

Retribution came swiftly. Estrada's allies regrouped and moved for the reorganization of the House. They elected Rep. Noli Fuentebella Speaker. To Fuentebella's credit, he did not change the House prosecution panel membership, and supported it during the impeachment trial in Senate.

Despite the leadership shake-up in both the House and the Senate (where Drilon was replaced by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel as Senate president), the trial went ahead until it was aborted by the 11-10 vote to prevent the opening of an envelope containing evidence on Estrada's alleged unexplained bank assets.

Estrada's defense lawyers argued during the trial that the way Villar pushed the impeachment articles with the speed of an express train and the procedure was unconstitutional. The impeachment court rejected this challenge.

From scripture to sex

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WE were there to talk about reproductive health and rights, as part of a "Workshop on Muslim Laws, Population and Reproductive Rights" organized by the Davao-based Pilipina Legal Resources Center Inc. with support from the Ford Foundation.

What perhaps none of us expected was that all of us—Muslim and Christian, academics, development workers, health care providers, community leaders, imams, scholars, married and single, young, middle-aged and senior—would end up talking about matters far beyond the topic at hand. But come to think of it, precisely because we strayed into matters personal and intimate, it could be said we were well within the topic of my talk: "From Population Control towards Reproductive Rights."

The problem was succinctly worded by Carmen Abubakar of the Institute of Islamic Studies of the University of the Philippines. "How do you convince women to assert their reproductive and sexual rights when Islamic leaders say the Koran forbids contraception?" she asked.

This was immediately disputed by other women in the group, some of whom were themselves scholars of Islam. "We must remember that the Koran and the hadith (accounts of the first followers of the Prophet Mohammad) have been interpreted for us over time mostly by men, and that it was from their perspective that they interpreted their meaning," said one.

In fact, some 32 hadith reveal that a form of contraception was even practiced at the time of the Prophet. Known as al-azl, or withdrawal, the companions of the Prophet claimed that the Prophet himself knew about the practice and did not forbid it. Later teachings would even advise men to practice it "only with the woman's permission."

In many predominantly Muslim countries where family planning is not only encouraged but promoted by Islamic authorities, it was revealed, the Prophet's tolerance for al-azl has been extended to other forms of contraception, subject to specific prohibitions.

* * *

THIS seemed to pave the way for more "personal" stories. One participant said she had undergone tubal ligation after the birth of her first child, without her knowledge but with her husband's consent. "My doctor told him that if I were to get pregnant again, my health would be at risk, so he agreed that the doctor perform the procedure right then," she said. "It was my husband who told me when I regained consciousness, but I agreed with him, and in fact, our relations improved so much after that because I was no longer afraid of getting pregnant."

She was supported by another Muslim sister, who confided that her ligation had been performed by her doctor, who was also a family friend, who judged that her uterus could no longer hold up under another pregnancy.

At this point, though I did not speak up then, I feel must stress that while their stories ended happily for them, this should not be the norm. It is every woman's right (every patient's right, in fact) to be told about and give her consent to any procedure she will undergo. Especially on a matter as important as a woman's future ability to bear children. I no longer buy the explanation of doctors that they might as well go ahead with the procedure while the woman is "open" during a caesarian. If possible, they should finish with the birth, then inform the woman about their concerns. Or if the possibility of a tubal ligation crops up before delivery, they should discuss this with their patients and gain their consent beforehand.

* * *

ANOTHER participant shared the information that she has nine children, but that the burdens of motherhood have not weighed too heavily upon her "because my husband fully supports me and participates in bringing up our children. He has stayed up at night, washed diapers, cooked our meals, and has been a real partner in nurturing our family," she said.

Her revelation about her husband washing diapers drew laughter because I had mentioned in my talk a detergent ad that had a new mother as the main character. I had said that it struck me as absurd that the ad for a new brand of detergent, with Sen. Loren Legarda as endorser, chose to illustrate how powerful its cleaning action is by using the example of a new mother still feeling weak after her delivery. The solution to her problem of feeling too weak to do the laundry, I said, is not to use a stronger detergent, but to convince her husband to wash the clothes in the meantime.

A health worker brought us back to harsh reality, though, when she mentioned that while adopting a policy on reproductive rights is well and good, the reality is that problems in health care delivery, such as the lack of contraceptive supplies and poor infrastructure, render reproductive rights meaningless. We may encourage poor women to make plans and decisions about their reproductive life, she said, but unless they can exercise their choices, doctors and bureaucrats would end up making their choices for them.

* * *

I FORGET how the discussion veered toward menopause, but one of the participants, who had been quite conservative in her views about Islam and contraception, remarked that after a couple reach a certain age, "you stay together more out of companionship than anything else." More so, she added, since after menopause "a woman no longer enjoys sex as much as she used to."

But a woman undergoing (or contemplating the arrival of) menopause, I said, can still consult her doctor for hormonal therapy that could offset the effects of estrogen loss. In fact, a postmenopausal woman can also employ other methods to make sex less painful, such as using lubricants.

At this the woman said, "Oh, lubricants! Well, I can give that a try..." much to our amusement. In closing, I reminded the women that reproductive rights encompass sexual rights, including the enjoyment of a "satisfying and safe sex life." "So go home and assert those rights!" I bade them.

Dearth of authentic prehistoric documents

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN I read the letter to the editor complaining about the latest subscription gimmick of The Economist I could not decide whether to laugh or cry. I received a similar routing envelope indicating that I was at the bottom of a cycle that included: George Bush, Bill Gates and Tony Blair. Insulted, I immediately dumped it—unopened—into the trash can together with the day's junk mail. What I cannot understand is that some people took themselves so seriously to even imagine they were important enough to be sent anthrax virus! These gullible people reacted to the envelope with panic, they wore gloves, placed the suspect envelope in a plastic bag and brought it to the post office, the hospital or the police. This was obviously something for "Wow Mali" except that the victims were so *pikon*. How come they don't complain about subscription gimmicks that offer free gifts or a raffle that promises cash, car or travel abroad? These paranoid people are the true victims of terrorism. I'd like to think that those who died in the World Trade Center are free of worry, but those who live in fear of anthrax or a plane crash are evidence of the wide ripple effect of terrorism. When our daily lives are disrupted by fear terrorism has succeeded.

We live in strange times and interpret normal situations wildly. For example, a flu epidemic in elementary schools, usual at certain times of the year, was thought to be bio-terrorism. The recent Luzon-wide power failure is just that power plants tripping due to jellyfish or incompetence or aging machines yet people read too much between the lines and imagined a coup d'état in progress. In Philippine historiography we have a different kind of situation that gave rise to hoaxes. Excessive nationalism has led many historians in search of historical documents written in the pre-Spanish times. The loss of these Filipino writings has always been blamed on the missionary friars of the 16th century who allegedly destroyed our written history and literature because these were heathen and the "work of the devil." Rizal himself claimed that the pre-colonial Filipinos were literate in their own language and system of writing, but then we don't have proof for this.

In 1961 the famous Calatagan pot was dug up in Batangas it is now proudly displayed in the National Museum and is considered one of our National treasures because this ordinary looking *palayok* has writing on its shoulder that resembles the pre-colonial syllabary. Unfortunately, it has been 40 years since the Calatagan pot was found and nobody has been able to decipher the writing with the exception of the late National Artist Guillermo Tolentino who got his text by consulting spirits in a seance. A new book will be out soon whose secretive author claims to have broken the mysterious text but till then we have nothing. Then we have the Laguna Copper Plate inscription found in recent years that records a debt that has been forgiven. These are slim pickings indeed and prompted the late William Henry Scott to declare, in a 1984 edition of his "Prehispanic source materials for the study of Philippine history" that, "No Philippine historian has yet published a prehispanic document of uncontested authenticity, and serious scholars have only once presented dubious ones...for want of local records, therefore, Philippine historians have turned to neighboring countries for possible references."

I reread Scott's book as I went through the 1950's correspondence between the Philippine Studies Program at the University of Chicago and scholars in Manila, that included H. Otley Beyer and Robert Fox, regarding what is now known to Filipino historians as the "Povedano manuscripts." Scott proves in his book that this manuscript and a handful of works on the pre-Spanish Philippines are forgeries by an eccentric but misguided genius named Jose E. Marco of Iloilo who gave us the imaginative Code of Kalantiaw. While most textbooks have deleted Marco material some still carry this misinformation, and the Philippine government still gives out a decoration known as the "Order of Kalantiaw." I will not detail the way in which these manuscripts were proven to be fake, Scott has done that marvelously, rather I want to go into the correspondence regarding these manuscripts to understand the context—the yearning for a pre-colonial past—that made the hoax possible.

Mauro Garcia, bibliophile and bibliographer, was responsible for raising the first serious challenge to the Marco manuscripts. For example, the Povedano manuscript was first mentioned in 1913 when Marco was trying to interest the American teacher Luther Parker into buying pre-colonial material. The manuscript was later acquired by the National Library, but was destroyed during the Battle for Manila in 1945. Then it surfaced again in 1951 in an MA thesis of a certain Rebecca Ignacio of Far Eastern University. Therefore in the 1950's there were at least four Povedano manuscripts, this should have raised the alarm, but people wanted so desperately to acquire and believe them to be authentic the stage was set for an elaborate and long-standing hoax.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

(*More on Friday*)

Crisis in paradise

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—Hawaii is romanticized as an island paradise. The reality, however, is that for all its pristine beauty, it's very fragile, then and now.

Before the coming of the buccaneer Captain Cook, an estimated 400,000 Hawaiians lived on this island chain, which must have looked like a real paradise then. The coming of the West with its diseases wiped out much of the native population who did not have immunity. The *aina* (land) had been despoiled forever. By the time the monarchy was overthrown in 1893 by American colonialists, the pure Hawaiians had dwindled to a mere 50,000.

Now, Hawaii's lot is not so much physical fragility as economic vulnerability. With the collapse of the plantation economy, the island state has had to rely on tourism as its major industry. It should not be difficult to understand that that's only as good as the Japanese tourists come. Why the state leadership over time has not had the vision to expand Hawaii's economic base is a major unresolved issue.

Sept. 11, 2001 exposed Hawaii's vulnerable tourist economy and recession has set in. People are not flying anymore. Tourism is moribund. Nearly 20,000 employees in the travel industry have lost their jobs. Nevada, the other state which is heavily dependent on tourism, is also hard-hit. But at least it's connected geographically with the mainland, which might give it a little elbow room. Hawaii now is a lonely island in the middle of the Pacific.

Filipinos are the most affected because they dominate the labor force of the hotel industry. In turn, this affects the Philippine economy, especially in places like the Ilocos, because the remittances sent by Filipino "Hawayanos" will not be as adequate as before. Families in the home country depend on such remittances to meet basic necessities like food, clothing, medicine and education.

And almost always, any economic crisis extracts a social cost. The empirical connection has long been established. One headline in a local daily shortly after the Sept. 11 disaster read, "Domestic Abuse Surges in Isles."

In September-October alone, Hawaii saw a sharp increase in domestic violence, including three murders, two of which involved Filipino couples. Experts believe that this trend will continue because of the stress generated by the economic downturn. A report by Nelson Daranciang in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin quotes a university expert who says that "there is a climate of pent-up feelings and there may be an escalation of domestic discord that could lead to violence."

Another expert theorizes that "when people feel threatened, they become more threatening...and when you are powerless, you exert force over the only people you have power over."

This seems to have been the case in the three killings cited above. In the first case, a Filipino working as a cook who lost his job told police he stabbed and killed his wife during an argument in their house at Kalihi, Honolulu's Filipino enclave.

A week later, another woman died of repeated stab wounds. Police believe her husband stabbed her in their apartment and slashed his throat in a murder-suicide.

In the third killing, another Filipino died of a gunshot wound in his abdomen while staying with his former wife. The ex-wife has been charged with the murder.

The Domestic Violence Clearinghouse, according to its director Nanci Kreidman, is receiving nearly double the number of calls per week than the period before Sept. 11. She speculates that there may be first-time callers who are calling because their abusers, usually husbands, ex-husbands or lovers, may have gotten more abusive and life-threatening.

There has also been an increase in the number of restraining orders issued by the Family Court from Sept. 11 to Oct. 24. There were nearly 60 more such orders than previously, indicating an upsurge in domestic violence. And women are usually the victims. They are either stalked, harassed or killed by their abusers even if temporary restraining orders have been issued to the latter. For some reason, Filipinos have a high rate of domestic violence in Hawaii.

This whole situation also results in the proverbial vicious cycle because in an economic crisis, the state cuts spending in order to save. But the first programs to go or be cut substantially are the social services. Thus, the working poor, for instance, often lose their childcare assistance benefits when they lose their jobs. People also lose their medical insurance when they are laid off. It's a double whammy, and in some cases, people affected cope violently.

The crisis has also crept into other areas. In what appears to be an overreaction, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is now monitoring foreign students. The INS's reasoning is couched in the language of "national security." Two of the Sept. 11 terrorists reportedly obtained student visas to the United States. Now, all 600,000 foreign students in America have to be tracked. This makes foreign students more vulnerable than they already are.

Of course, if INS finds a few violators, such as visa overstayers, they will come out with new regulations. And this will discourage foreign students from coming at a time when universities need the extra income from their tuition and fees. It's an endless conundrum. One exacerbates the other. There are 1,323 foreign students at the University of Hawaii at Manoa alone coming from 77 countries. Hawaii Pacific University, a private institution, has 1,800.

In effect, the short term looks grim and the long term is uncertain. Waiting for the tourists to return to paradise is a false hope. The state leadership had better come up with something before the crisis escalates to devastating proportions.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

THEY SAID

No crime, no clearance

"How can we clear anybody when it appears from the scanty documents we have on hand that no one has committed any crime?"

—Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, denying a whitewash in the investigation of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo

Special treatment

"That Estrada did not attend the photo session is less important than the Sandiganbayan's decision to provide his camp with more precedents toward court-approved 'special treatment' and 'house or hospital arrest' for all the accuse."

—Plunder Watch convenor Carolina Pafaduan, criticizing the Sandiganbayan's decision to allow former President Joseph Estrada to attend Senate socials

Praise for heroes

"You see firemen, you see cops, and these guys risk their lives every day. They do this all the time ...to be able to see a smile on some of these people's faces—they've gone through so much, they've lost so many of their friends."

—Singer Billy Joel, praising policemen and firemen in a concert for New York heroes

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LETTERS

Lanzones and liberalization

I LOVE lanzones. Ever since I was a child, I looked forward to the lanzones season. But as I get older, I noticed that the lanzones season got shorter and shorter and the price of a kilo of lanzones got more expensive with time. This year, the lowest it went for was P50 a kilo. I could only afford to buy half kilo at a time.

In contrast, apples, oranges and pears are everywhere the whole year round. An apple or a pear can be bought for as low as P8 each. What used to be a "Christmas fruit" (because we only bought apples during the Christmas season) has become available practically year round. This is a concrete result of liberalization. This is true not only for local fruits but also for the *"barako"* coffee, rice and corn which compete with imported ones.

If consumers like us are affected, how much more the lanzones farmers, the coffee farmers, the rice and corn farmers, etc.? As a consumer, we can always tighten our belts but these farmers stand to lose everything—their livelihood, their land, their homes—as our market gets flooded with imported produce.

Instead of liberalizing our agriculture, the government should provide assistance, perhaps in the form of subsidy (of farm inputs, services, implements) to our local farmers. And if the land that farmers till are distributed to them for free, then they have more reason to work harder and produce more rice and corn, *"barako"* coffee and, yes, even lanzones. With an increase in their production, we do not actually need to import agricultural products. Then, I would be able to enjoy my lanzones again.—**MA. ESMERALDA MACASPAC, 1235 Trece de Agosto St., Paco, Manila**

Today's Scrooges and Grinches

'TIS the season to be sulky.

It will be a bleak Christmas for workers, following the statement of various employers' groups that they could not afford to give Christmas bonuses and 13th month benefits. With President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo regarding a substantial wage increase as "anti-labor" and with modern-day Scrooges and Grinches caroling a wage-freeze chorus, we anticipate the next year to be more miserable for workers and their families.

Since workers have no gifts to open this Christmas, then we demand the books of accounts be opened in order for the capitalists to prove that they are truly bleeding. We are certain that many companies merely feign financial loss and bankruptcy to satisfy their greed for profit.

Employers' assessment of the country's economic situation conflict with that of government. So how can we not charge the capitalist class with trickery and deception? Donald Dee and Ecop plead for a one-year freeze in wages and benefits as they argue that the economy is in a crisis. Meanwhile, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and the National Economic Development Authority claim that the country would attain a 3 percent target in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) even other countries lower down their target growth rates.

Even if there is truth to the economic crisis, workers must not starve to death to attain economic growth and recovery. Labor has always been the last to benefit during economic boom. Why must we be the first to sacrifice during economic crises?

Ebenezer Scrooge had to be haunted by the ghosts of Christmas (past, present and future), before he mended his ways. If capitalists continue to deprive decent lives to workers and their families, they will inevitably face the specter of a restive labor front.—**RENATO MAGTUBO, chair, Partido ng Manggagawa, 47 Masikap St., Bgy. Pinyahan, Diliman, Quezon City**

Quiz shows can be an embarrassment

I WONDER what government agency has the control and supervision over television game shows which offer large amounts of prizes to studio contestants and home viewers. I am particularly concerned with the correctness of the answers given to the questions posed in the program's contests.

On the Oct. 29, 2001 episode of "Game Ka Na Ba" over ABS-CBN, I was surprised to learn from Kris Aquino, the program host, that it was Jose Rizal who uttered the words "*Consumatum est*" or "It is done," thereby declaring the answer of the contestant who said Jesus Christ as the wrong answer.

In a situation where a person is on a TV game show, we never see a contestant argue with the show host about the correctness of an answer. They always presume the host's answer as correct.

Imagine if a contestant in Christopher de Leon's "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire" has reached the P1-million level and is up for the jackpot prize of P2 million and the question is something about who said the words "*Consumatum est.*" Then the contestant answers Jesus Christ but the show host says that is wrong, and the correct answer is Jose Rizal. How can such a thing be corrected or avoided? It causes such disillusion and embarrassment all around.—**HANIVAR R. CUTANDA, Pajo Barangay Hall, Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu**

Best place in the world (but for toilets)

IN SPITE of the negative comments made about the country, I still believe that the Philippines is the best country in the whole world. Whenever friends or relatives come for a visit, I make it a point to bring them to historical places here in my province Sorsogon.

Recently I brought a group from Japan to the provincial capitol. It was here where the "Last American Governor" held office: eight-term Gov. Juan G. Frivaldo. The late governor's record (the longest and oldest in the Philippine politics) as a politician and public servant was indeed quite colorful: from an unknown newspaperman, he became more popular (and controversial) when he went on self-exile to avoid the late President Marcos' wrath. He was again governor of Sorsogon when a Chinese *jueteng* lord and political rivals temporarily ousted him from the provincial capitol on charges of American citizenship. But the Supreme Court eventually ruled that Frivaldo was a Filipino.

"Tata Juan," as the late governor was fondly called, was very concerned in keeping the offices and capitol grounds clean and in tiptop shape. The premises with the almost hundred-year-old acacia trees and plants gave the place a cool and rustic atmosphere, very similar to the place of my husband in Hiroshima.

Guests still love the place, except for the comfort rooms in the provincial gymnasium and inside the capitol building, which are dirty, smelly and without running water. How I wish something could be done about those comfort rooms to restore them to the way they used to be.—**JANET C. GOLIMLIM-KATO MD, Blk. 11, Lt. 15, Our Lady's Village, Gate 1, Bgy. Pangpang, Sorsogon City**

Greed and a trap in coco levy fund?

MY heart bleeds for the coconut farmers whose dream for a better life is again frustrated by the adverse stand of the Macapagal administration keymen to the planned amicable settlement on the coconut levy controversy as announced by presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Greed is what I discern as the motivation of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) in objecting to the planned amicable settlement. Having controlled the levy funds during the last 15 years, the PCGG cannot preside over the liquidation of their interests. Who wants to give up sole control of multi-billion funds? To hell with the coconut farmers, Cojuangco and the coconut industry!

A prolonged litigation means a prolonged hold and control of the levy funds by the PCGG. Fifteen years are not enough the PCGG wants more *pagsamantala sa pera nang industriya sa niyog at sa mga magsasaka*! Is this not greed?

Joining the keymen of the Macapagal administration in objecting to the proposed amicable settlement are front organizations who are more interested in sabotaging the economy of the country to hasten its fall rather than the true and genuine interests of the coconut farmers.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should be aware of the trap that the people around her have set up.—**JOSE T. MARCHAN, president, Coco-Industry Rationalization Movement Inc., 3/F, Samio Bldg., Belen St., Paco, Manila**

all about élan

For Style, Spirit and Splendor

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all about élan

Unchanging Baclaran traffic

THE EXTRAVAGANT attention poured by the Department of Transportation and Communication and the Metro Manila Development Authority on declogging Edsa has completely sidelined the daily calvary of thousands of similarly suffering motorists plying another important artery right in the heart of Metro Manila—Baclaran.

Governments have come and gone but the so-called Baclaran mystique remains. Public transport vehicles have been rerouted, Roxas Boulevard has been widened, the illegal commercial stalls have been demolished, a passenger overpass has been constructed but the Baclaran traffic is still there thumbing its ugly nose at the DOTC and the MMDA.

And the monstrous vehicular jams are not getting any better. I pass there day and night for more than 20 years now. The jams are there in the morning to spoil your day and still there up to the late hours of the night to give you nightmares.

And guess what? The monstrous jams now even stretch up to Airport Road where huge, unruly buses coming from the Coastal Mall are allowed to cross the boulevard to merge with the perpetually chaotic northbound traffic. Thanks to the geniuses of the DOTC and MMDA who never run out of ideas on how to make life difficult for us motorists.

Compounding the problem are the jeepneys tolerated by the traffic enforcers to pick up passengers who, in their haste to go home, already occupy half of the road at the corner of the mall entrance and Roxas Boulevard.

Actually the solution to the problem has been staring the authorities in the face since time immemorial and this is to stop Baclaran from being a mulcting center. If traffic enforcers will just do their job then the Baclaran problem will be eliminated altogether. Even Forrest Gump can immediately deduce that the mess lies in the mini-buses, buses and jeepneys allowed to double park, and sometimes triple park, while waiting for passengers. It is either they build a terminal there or they start apprehending vehicles obstructing the smooth flow of traffic in the area.

When Abalos took over the chair of the MMDA several months ago, Baclaran, for two heavenly weeks, was miraculously clear of kilometric traffic even during rush hours. Hallelujah for the motorcycle cops who, through divine intercession, were for once doing their job.

But the miracle was, as expected, short-lived. After two weeks, the motorcycles were still conspicuously parked there but the cops were nowhere to be found. The traffic aides were still frantically blowing their whistles but this time only for acoustic purposes. The erring drivers were again back in business. And, probably, so were the cops.

As the saying goes, *"escoba nuevo limpio bueno."* I can still remember Abalos all over the news programs expounding on his plans to rid Metro Manila of traffic and garbage. It is now back to abnormal. The traffic jams are around again and so are the garbage heaps. But this time it's worse.

Maybe the DOTC and the good MMDA chair can look at the direction of Baclaran for a change. "*Nagbabayad din kami ng* tax."—**RENATO SERRANO, 78 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**

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Maraming Salamat
President Gloria
Macapagal Arroyo!

For giving the country's cement industry and its workers a new lease on life.

WORKERS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PHILIPPINE CEMENT INDUSTRY

PAID AD

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Saudi anti-war sentiment seen flaring over Ramadan

RIYADH—Strong anti-war sentiment in Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, looks set to swell with the advent this weekend of the Muslim dawn-to-dusk fasting month of Ramadan.

Top clerics, preachers, authors and even high-ranking officials in this kingdom, which applies a strict code of Islam, have spoken out against the US-led air strikes on Afghanistan, which are expected to continue.

Despite reports of hundreds of civilian casualties, the top religious authority—the senior ulema (scholars) committee headed by the grand mufti—has so far remained silent.

But some of its members have strongly criticized the war on terrorism for endangering the lives of fellow Muslims.

"I can confidently state that, though many Saudis do not approve of the terror attacks in the United States and what Osama bin Laden has been doing, they staunchly oppose the war against Afghanistan," a political analyst said.

"It is across-the-board opposition. This is a very religious country, and you can't expect them to support the killing of their fellow Muslims. I feel opposition to the war will grow during Ramadan," the said analyst on condition of anonymity.

Ramadan marks the revelation of the Muslim holy book, the Koran. The faithful abstain from eating, drinking, smoking and sex during daylight hours for 30 days, during which religious fervor and activity increases.

Works of charity, Zakat (alms), Islam's form of taxation, and other fund-raising increase manifold over Ramadan as Muslims consider doing good more appropriate in the holy month.

Sentiments of Islamic brotherhood, solidarity and sympathy as forms of religious obligation reach their climax in Ramadan. The concepts of self-sacrifice and "jihad," holy war, also move to higher levels.

Most of last Friday's sermons in Saudi mosques focused on the benefits of fasting, and recounted the glorious victories Muslims made in Ramadans past, including the defeat of the crusaders in Jerusalem eight centuries ago.

Many mosque preachers defied instructions from the ministry of Islamic affairs to avoid talking about Afghanistan, and openly criticized Washington for "barbaric raids on Muslim Afghan civilians."

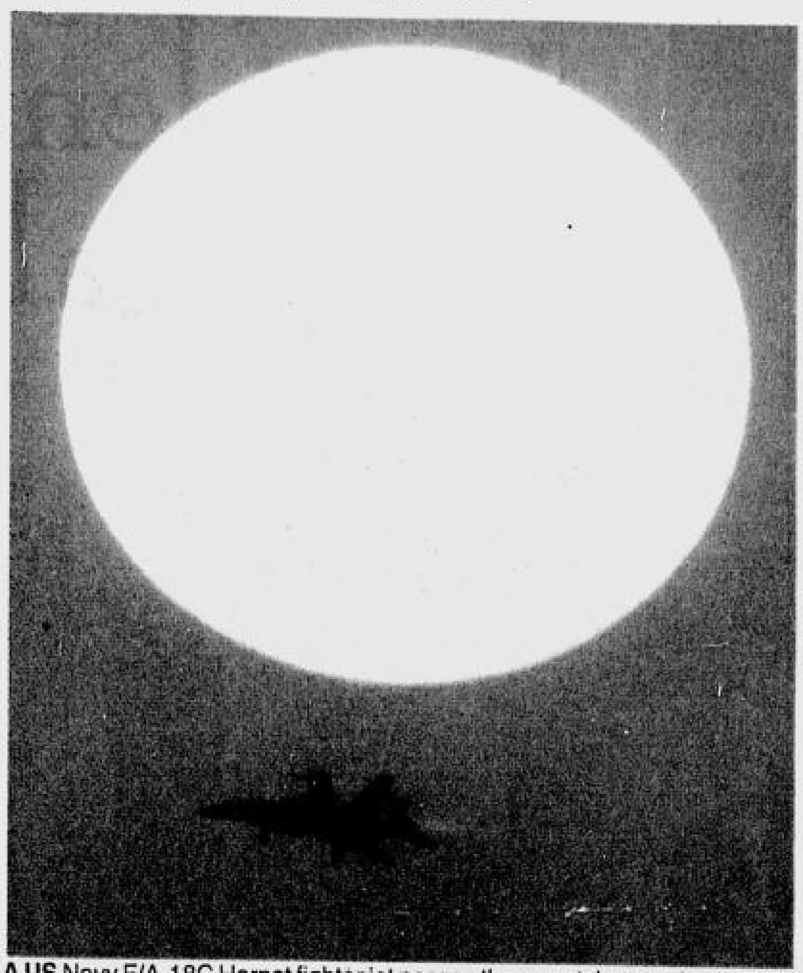
"This is a war between arrogant tyrants using the most advanced war machine, against helpless innocent civilians" in Afghanistan, one preacher said, and urged worshippers to support their fellow Muslim brothers.

"Over Ramadan, such feelings and emotions will be more evident. Muslims will be reminded more than any time before of their glorious past, their unity, brotherhood and solidarity. This is how things will look different," the analyst said.

Riyadh has confirmed that a number of Saudis have been questioned for possible links with prime terror suspect Saudi-born Osama bin Laden, but categorically denied they were members of his al-Qaida organization.

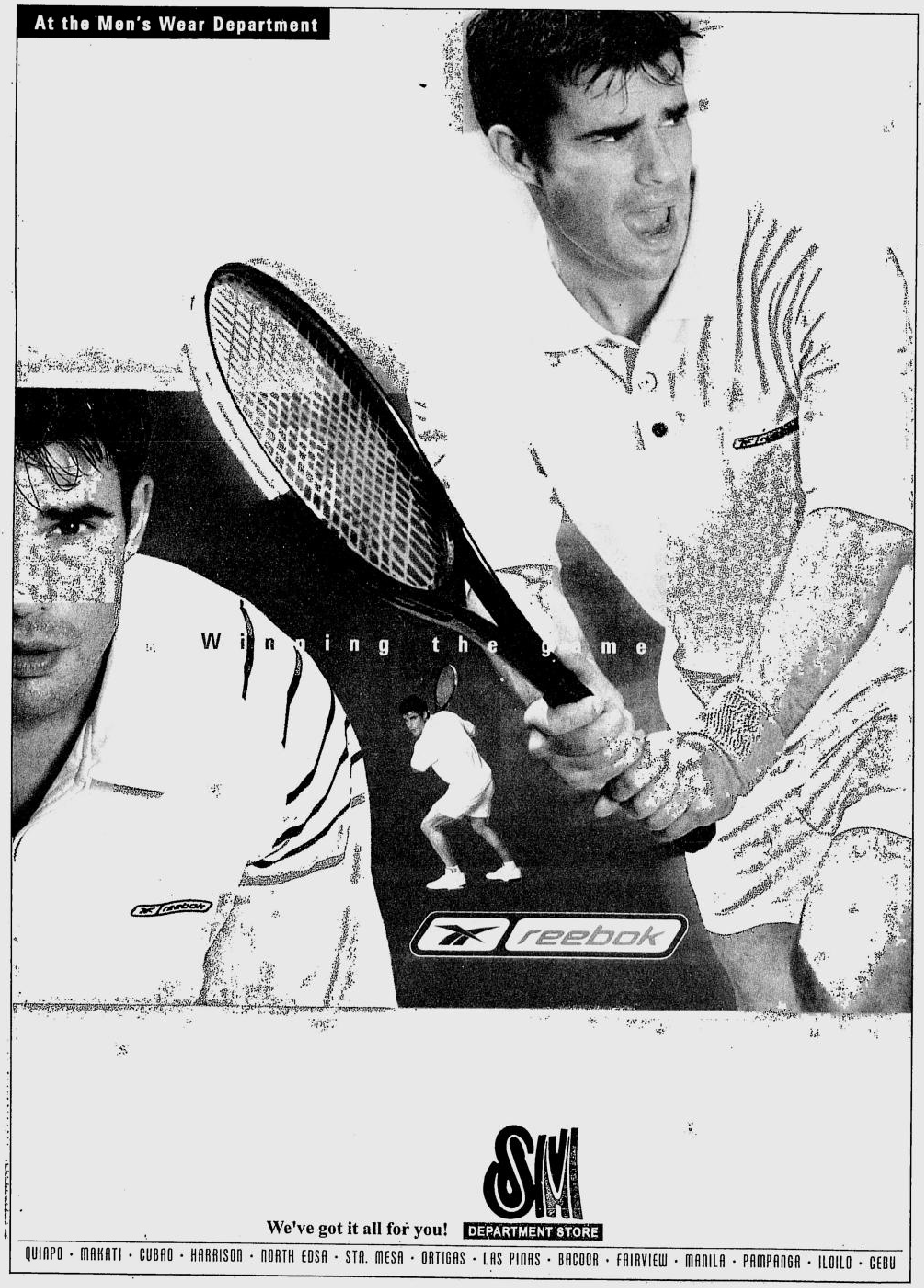
But Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz said he could not confirm that Saudi volunteers had traveled to fight alongside the ruling Taliban militia in Afghanistan.

Several hundred Saudis were reported to have left the kingdom for Afghanistan following the launch of the US-led campaign on Oct. 7. Some unconfirmed sources put the figure at thousands. *AFP*



A US Navy F/A-18C Hornet fighter jet passes the sun at dawn as it prepares to land on the USS Theodore Roosevelt in the Arabian Sea following a strike mission in Afghanistan Nov. 13.

AP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Millions taken from Afghan money changers

KABUL—Millions of dollars were stolen from Afganistan's main money market as the Taliban militia pulled out of Kabul and the opposition moved in, money changers said yesterday.

"This was all our capital. Even the computers, carpets and tea pots have gone. This is a crime against Afghanistan, the Afghans and against Islam," said Haji Amin Jan Khosti, chief of the Shara-e-Shazada money exchange.

He said unknown thieves looted 80 shops in the market, leaving none untouched and driving away with trucks full of the local Afghani currency, which is worth around 50,000 to the dollar.

A massive fortune, at least in Afghan terms, of around $1.5 million and 100 million Pakistani rupees ($1.6 million), plus unknown amounts of various other currencies had been disappeared.

"In every shop at least five to 10 million Pakistan rupees has been taken," said Khosti.

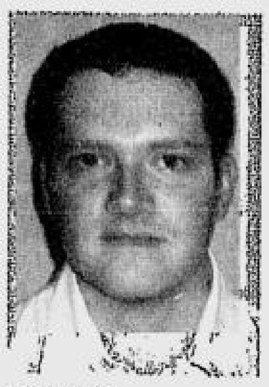
"They haven't left anything. It is a terrorist act and whoever did it deserves the damnation of God Almighty."

The Taliban, which had ruled Kabul since 1996, pulled out of the city overnight after opposition forces, backed by US air power, drove them from the northern provinces and smashed their frontlines around the city. *AFP*

Reporter recalls horror of ambush

SYDNEY—Australian journalist Paul McGeough clung for his life to the top of an armored vehicle as Taliban fighters sprayed it with automatic gunfire.

Three other reporters were killed in the attack Sunday. They are believed to be the first foreign journalists killed in Afghanistan since American air strikes began on Oct. 7.



BILLAUD

Sydney Morning Herald correspondent McGeough told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio Tuesday he had recently struck up a friendship with one of the victims, German Volker Handloik, a freelance reporter working for Stern magazine.

"He'd have nothing to do with me . . . and then three days ago the whole relationship changed," McGeough said.

"Suddenly he'd decided I was all right and I saw that Volker and I were going to get on—that we were going to have a very warm, professional relationship and I was enjoying that. To go out there and pick up his body this morning was just bloody awful," he added.

The other two victims were identified as Johanne Sutton, 34, who worked for French radio station Radio France Internationale, and Pierre Billaud, who worked for Luxembourg-based radio RTL.

McGeough was with a party of six journalists who rode on top of a northern alliance APC to inspect a hill they believed had been deserted by Taliban forces.

"We charged off into the night . . . we plowed into no man's land, there were about 14 or 15 northern alliance soldiers crammed on the top of the APC," he said.

"We suddenly came under ferocious fire from about three different directions . . . most disturbingly there was rocket-propelled grenade fire," he said.

"It was closer than I've been to anything like that before . . . and I don't want to be there again," he told the ABC via a satellite telephone linkup. *AP*

Arab leaders warn Bush: Solve Mideast row or face more terror

NABLUS, West Bank—Arab leaders urged Washington Monday to tackle the Middle East conflict or face a new generation of terrorists, as a passenger jet with more than 250 people aboard plunged into New York in a terrible reminder of the September terror attacks.

The ongoing tensions of the region were underscored when Israeli commandos carried out a pre-dawn raid on a Palestinian village near Nablus in the West Bank, killing a militant accused of slaying two Jewish settlers and netting 16 men on Israel's wanted list.

In Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak warned his US counterpart George W. Bush to meet with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, or face an even tougher task in defusing the smoldering Middle East crisis that has claimed more than 950 lives.

After a meeting with French President Jacques Chirac, Mubarak also warned of a new generation of more "ferocious terrorists" if no lasting Arab-Israeli peace is found.

A meeting between Bush and Arafat "must definitely take place," Mubarak said. "After Arafat, it will get more difficult to negotiate."

Bush, who has already met several times with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, refused a meeting with Arafat on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session at the weekend, a snub that caused anger in the Arab world.

In Riyadh, Saudi King Fahd called on Bush to pressure Israel to halt acts of violence against the Palestinians.

"The United States has an important role which is to give impetus to the peace process in the Middle East and to exercise pressure on Israel to halt the violence against the Palestinian people," the king said in a statement.

Many Arab leaders said the September attacks were in part motivated by Muslim grievances generated by decades of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and by the 13-month Palestinian uprising, or intifada, in particular.

The death toll of the intifada rose Monday when Israeli troops stormed the village of Tell near Nablus in search of wanted militants.

Their pre-dawn raid sparked a brief firefight in which Mohammed Rihan, a 25-year-old member of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, was shot dead.

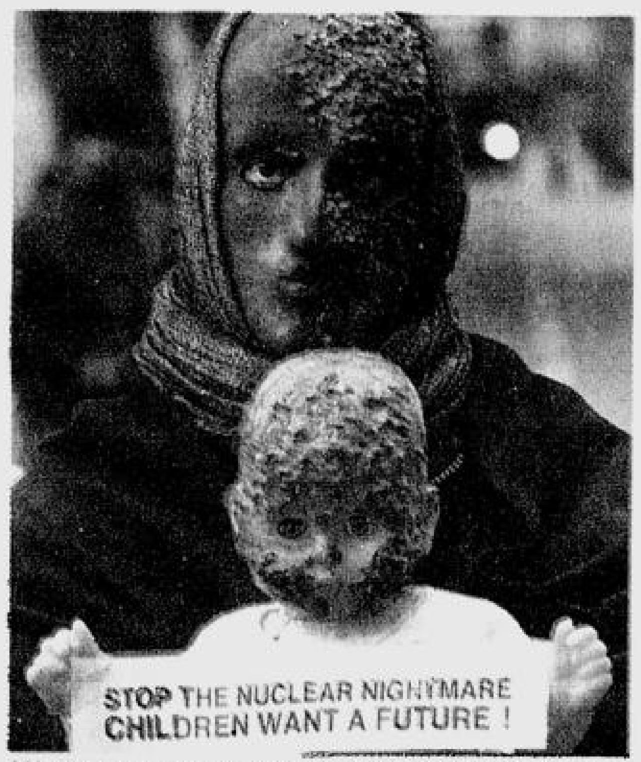
The troops arrested 16 men on Israel's wanted list and detained 29 others for questioning, the Army said in a statement.

Tell was the scene of a fierce gunbattle last week that left an Israeli Army officer and three Palestinian militants dead.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said last week he was changing his tactics to combat Palestinian attacks, shifting from the mass tank deployments that followed the killing of a Cabinet minister in October to in-and-out commando raids to hunt militants the Palestinians refuse to jail.

The operation came just hours after suspected Palestinian gunmen shot dead a security guard in an Israeli village close to the Green Line separating the Jewish state from the West Bank.

On Monday, Israeli security forces also announced that they had captured an activist of the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad earlier this month who they said was implicated in a string of attacks. *AFP*



AN ANTI-nuclear activist wears a hideous mask and a disfigured puppet to bring attention to the potential effects of a nuclear disaster during a roadblock in Dahlenburg Nov. 12. REUTERS

Germany mobilizes 15,000 cops to guard nuclear waste shipment

DANNENBERG, Germany—Germany mounted one of its biggest peacetime security operations on Tuesday as protesters tried to stop a shipment of nuclear waste reaching a storage site in the north of the country.

Police mobilized 15,000 officers to guard the six containers, which began their journey by rail from a reprocessing plant at La Hague on France's northwest coast on Sunday.

Late on Monday, police moved in to end a three-hour, sit-down protest by around 600 demonstrators on a section of railway near the storage site at Gorleben.

Previous shipments have been hit by violence and disruption from Germany's strong anti-nuclear lobby.

Police and protesters said that so far fewer people than expected had joined the latest demonstration.

The containers, carrying highly radioactive waste from German nuclear power plants that was reprocessed in France, will be loaded onto lorries in the northern German town of Dannenberg for their final 20 km trip by road to the Gorleben storage site.

The town was crammed with police vans. Officers slept or played cards, resting ahead of what has become a ritual confrontation with anti-nuclear protesters whenever major shipments head for Gorleben.

By Monday night, riot police were already in place at the railway unloading area in Dannenberg. Helicopters kept watch overhead.

"It looks like (the protest) is going to kick off here late on Tuesday," said one police officer in Dannenberg.

Protesters were a less visible presence, camped nearby.

"It's looking like there are going to be fewer people than last time. I don't think the weather has helped," said a man from Braunschweig, pointing to the driving rain outside.

The train carrying the nuclear waste crossed into Germany on Monday afternoon and is due in Gorleben on Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on the intensity of resistance.

Protesters plan to try to block the train by obstructing the railway line.

Police said they had removed a number of concrete slabs placed near the line. They suspect protesters will also try to chain themselves to the railway.

Germany adopted legislation last month to phase out nuclear power over the next two decades.

The government has also been re-examining the safety of nuclear convoys and power plants in the wake of the Sept. 11 suicide plane attacks in the United States. *Reuters*

Kids alone 40 days while mom gambles

BANGKOK—A Thai woman left her four children at a hotel in a frontier town more than a month ago to gamble in a casino town across the border in Cambodia, a hotel official said Tuesday.

The woman brought her son and three daughters aged between six and 12 to the Aran Park hotel in Aranyaprathet town Oct.3, and stayed with them only one night before crossing the border to Poipet, the hotel's front office manager, Aree Petudom said.

The case was brought to national attention by a report Tuesday in the Nation newspaper, which said it has been the talk of the town in Aranyaprathet for days.

Aree said the woman told the hotel staff to deliver food to the children every day. Alarmed by the escalating bill including $900 in room rent, the hotel has been feeding the kids simple meals, mostly rice with toppings, the Nation said.

Aree said the woman, Kannika Khamkaeo, had until Tuesday not returned from Poipet, which has three major casinos and dozens of small ones patronized by hundreds of Thais every day. Gambling in Thailand is banned.

"We do not know what do but to continue to take care of the children until their mother turns up or their relatives claim them," Aree said.

The hotel has filed a complaint with the police against Kannika, who is in her 30s, for failing to pay her bills.

Police say they receive almost daily complaints from hotel owners against customers who come back from Poipet broke and unable to pay hotel bills. *AP*

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Bush vows to 'substantially lower' level of US nuke arms

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said he will slash US nuclear weapons to "substantially lower" levels even if Russian President Vladimir Putin refuses to respond with similar cuts. The two leaders open three days of talks Tuesday.

Bush said he and Putin were on the verge of forging a relationship that "will outlive our presidencies." In an interview Monday with Russian journalists, the president said he would urge the 19-member Nato military alliance to build ties with Russia that go "beyond the current relationship."

The president suggested he still has differences with Putin over the US missile defense program, which will soon violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty unless the pact is scrapped or amended. Putin has signaled that he is ready to agree to a formula that will allow the United States to go ahead with tests related to missile defense as long as Bush preserves the treaty.

"The ABM treaty is outdated because it will prevent the United States from researching and developing weapons systems that will really reflect the true threats of the 21st century," Bush said, slumping comfortably in a Roosevelt Room chair across the hall from the Oval Office. "The big threat for us and for the Russians is not each other, but somebody developing weapons of mass destruction."

Bush's opposition to the ABM treaty, as well as his pledge to reduce the US nuclear cache regardless of Russia's plans, date to the early days of the 2000 presidential campaign. But coming as Putin arrived in the United States for three days of meetings, the remarks laid the groundwork for what aides said could be a remarkable session.

Though they are playing down the chances for a breakthrough on the ABM, senior administration officials said Monday it is likely that the pair will reach an accommodation on the issue—if not full agreement—before Putin leaves Bush's Texas ranch on Thursday.

Bush said one thing is certain: He will announce his numerical goals for reducing US nuclear stockpiles.

"I'll have a number that I will share with him, and it's going to be substantially lower than today's weaponry, and I presume he'll have a number he'll share with me. The point is, what we don't need is the endless hours of arms control discussions, Bush said.

"It's a new day when two new leaders step forward and say this is best for stability in the world."

Russia, no longer able to afford a Cold War nuclear stockpile, has proposed new limits on US and Russian stockpiles of not more than 2,000 long-range warheads for each country, down from a current total of about 6,000 each.

Bush advisers said the president has considered a range of 1,750 to 2,250 warheads apiece. A senior US official said last week that Bush's range dipped below 2,000.

Bush noted that he promised in the campaign to "reduce our weaponry to a level commensurate with keeping the peace but lower enough to say to the world that the Cold War is over. And there will be a specific range" announced Tuesday, the president said. *AP*

SUPPORTERS of slain West Papuan pro-independence leader Theys Eluay draped the banned separatist Morning Star flag over his coffin at a public viewing in the provincial capital of Jayapura, Irian Jaya province, about 4,000 km east of Jakarta. AP

Macedonia steps back from new civil warfare

SKOPJE—Macedonia appeared to step back from fresh civil warfare on Monday when hundreds of special forces rumbled out of territory that is home to nervous former guerrillas after their foray triggered fighting.

The partial pullout was coupled with the release of 39 Macedonians seized by ethnic Albanian gunmen in retaliation for the arrests of former insurgents, reviving hopes for the former Yugoslav republic's peace accord.

"We are reducing the number of police (in the flashpoint area) at the request of Amber Fox," a senior police official said, referring to the small Nato security mission. Nato, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation Europe helped win the release of the hostages.

In another development, a long-delayed session of parliament was rescheduled for Tuesday to adopt 15 constitutional amendments stipulated by the peace pact to improve the civil rights of the large Albanian minority.

"I believe the situation has stabilized after the period of high tension during the night," said Nato Secretary General George Robertson, who has doggedly helped to steer the peace plan through numerous obstacles in the past two months.

EU's foreign policy chief Javier Solana appealed to Macedonian leaders for restraint.

"As I told President (Boris) Trajkovski and party leaders, with whom I am in constant contact, the adoption of the constitutional amendments would be the best way to rapidly restore confidence (among Albanians)," Solana said in Brussels.

Tensions still simmered however because a special police unit remained in the Trebos area where they swept in on Sunday.

They cordoned off what was called a mass grave and arrested seven former rebels, flouting a government commitment to a general amnesty.

Macedonian officials said fighting broke out after nightfall on Sunday and three policemen were killed when Albanian "terrorists" blasted their position with a rocket.

Macedonian reporters, escorted to the area on Monday by security forces, heard repeated machinegun bursts.

Ultra-nationalist Interior Minister Ljube Boskovski stunned peace sponsors by using "Lion" and "Tiger" commando units feared and hated by ethnic Albanians to occupy farmland said to contain bodies of Macedonians executed by rebels earlier this year.

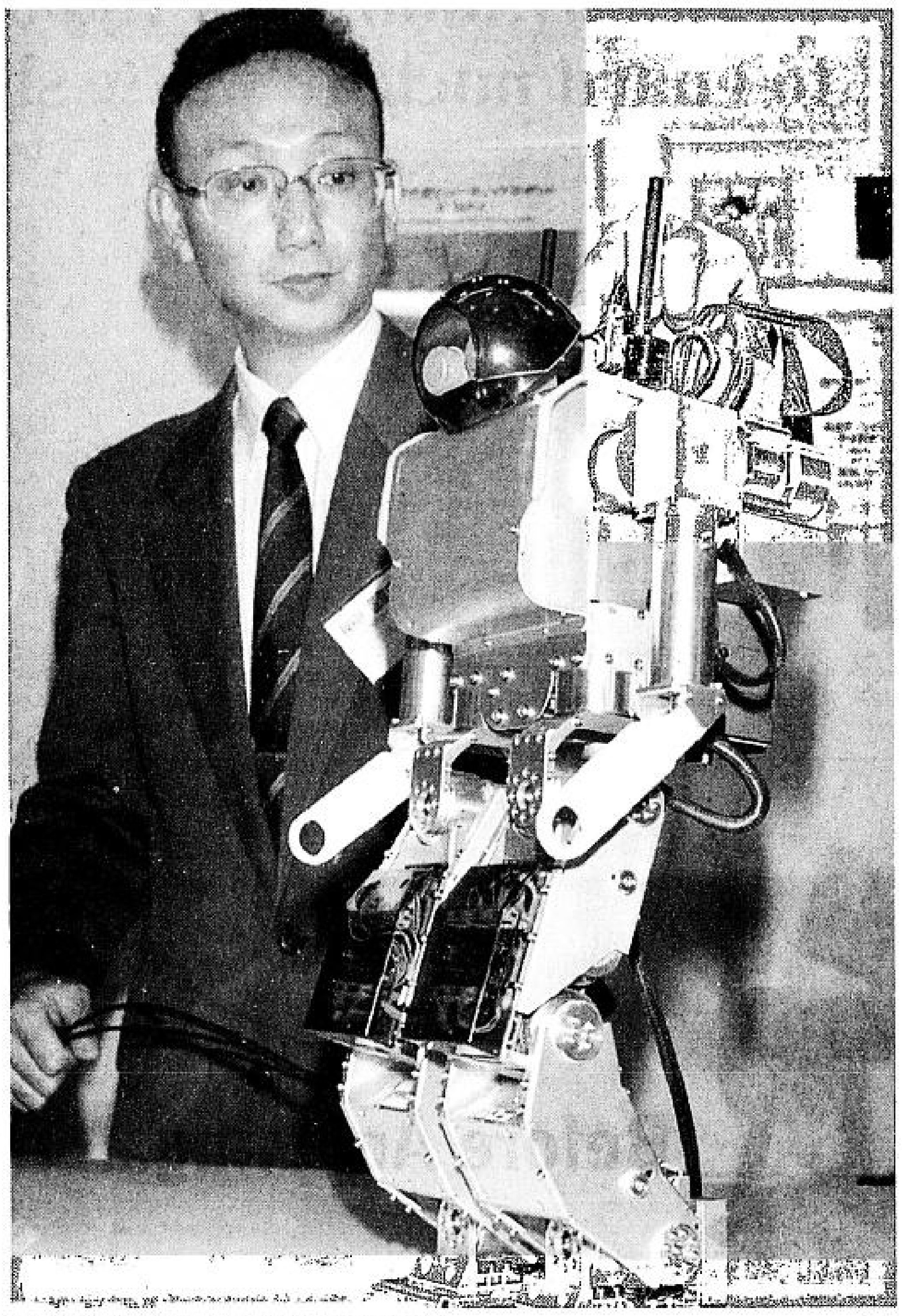
Boskovski defied a previous agreement providing for a gradual, consensual restoration of state authority in former guerrilla areas. The virulently anti-Albanian security establishment has also blocked a general pardon for guerrillas.

Diplomats said rightist ministers were trying to sabotage the ratification of reforms that Macedonia's weak ruling coalition to minority Albanians after guerrillas disbanded in September as part of the peace deal.

An official in the faction-ridden coalition disclosed that Boskovski's gambit caught the moderate Trajkovski by surprise, raising concern that nationalist hardliners were out of control.

"These recent events have only underscored the need for rapid . . . passage of the framework (peace) agreement and an effective amnesty, without further delay," Nato Ambassador Claus Vollers said in a statement.

The Albanian National Armada, a purported extremist faction of the National Liberation Army, claimed responsibility for killing what it called "Slav paramilitaries masquerading as policemen." *Reuters*



PROTOTYPE HUMANOID ROBOT AP

Koichi Kimura, an engineer of Fujitsu, adjusts small humanoid robot HOAP-1 at the International Robot Exhibition in Tokyo Nov. 13. HOAP-1 was developed for open architecture platform and works as an experimental prototype for researchers based on an attached simulator with the operating system of RT-LINUX for designing applications. It sells for five million yen ($40,650).

Thousands mourn slain freedom leader

JAYAPURA, Indonesia—Thousands of mourners on Tuesday joined an emotional procession escorting the body of a slain independence leader in Indonesia's Irian Jaya province to his family home.

Crowds filled the 45-km winding road from the provincial capital, Jayapura, to the western suburb of Sentani, where Theys Eluay lived until his mysterious death on Saturday.

Men, women and children in this predominantly Christian province on the western half of New Guinea island sang hymns, waved outlawed separatist flags and called for independence. Many carried pink frangipani flowers, a traditional sign of mourning.

Hundreds of police and soldiers lined the route, anxious to avoid a repeat of the rioting that hit the town after the slaying.

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the death of Eluay. However, his family and other activists have accused the Indonesian military of the killing.

"Eluay's death will only strengthen the independence movement," said one marcher, 22-year-old student Josef Marika. "He did not die for nothing."

Eluay's corpse was found inside his crushed car at the bottom of a ravine, just hours after he dined with local military officers. Police said he appeared to have been strangled.

Thousands of people have been killed in the province since Indonesia occupied the former Dutch colony in 1963. Its sovereignty was formalized in 1969 through a referendum of village chiefs, but pro-independence activists say the vote was rigged. A ragtag guerrilla group has been fighting Indonesian rule ever since.

President Megawati Sukarnoputri, a nationalist hardliner who succeeded the more conciliatory Abdurrahman Wahid in July, has cut off efforts to reach a negotiated settlement with pro-independence politicians. She has vowed to use the security forces to crack down on any threats to Indonesia's unity.

In Aceh province on Indonesia's opposite end, troops have killed hundreds this year in an offensive against separatist rebels. *AP*

Confession of an Islamist killer

BY MARC PONDAVEN

ALGIERS—Algerian Islamist fighter Djeboul Boumedhi, who was arrested at the end of last August, has confessed to bloody massacres he took part in, without showing any remorse.

Shown off by the authorities to selected Algerian media, Boumedhi recounted the killings, and kidnappings of young women who were carted off to be used as sex slaves.

Boumedhi started off as a painter and decorator, and then lived successively in Libya, Syria, Iraq and then Lebanon, where he fought with Muslim groups against Lebanese Christians.

He then joined the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), staying with it for seven years. Boumedhi signed up with the GIA in the Medea region, 80 km south of Algiers, close to his home village of El Omaria.

Showing no particular feelings, nor remorse, Boumedhi, a mocking smile on his face, admitted having taken part in numerous massacres in the Medea and Blida region, the reporter of the daily Expression reported.

He said the purpose was to punish the local people for taking part in state-organized elections in spite of a boycott order by GIA chief Antar Zouabri.

This was in spite of the fact that the local people often provided logistical support for the GIA guerrillas.

During the operations, many children were shot down with their parents, Boumedhi said, explaining that Zouabri considered the people to be "renegades."

"They deserve death, the children as well, because when they grow up, they will take up arms against the GIA," Boumedhi said, quoting the Zouabri doctrine.

Often the killers would target isolated villages so as to limit their losses, permitting "rapid and relatively safe withdrawal" in case of an attack by security forces.

If punishment was one of the aims of the guerrillas, other objectives were to steal as much gold as possible, to steal kitchen utensils and food—and also to abduct young girls "if there was enough time."

This order of the day was in force during the big massacres of September, 1997, at Rais and Bentalha, near Algiers in the Mitidja plain. *AFP*

Defiant Japanese go for ash-scattering

BY HANS CREIMEL

TOKYO—With four powdery tosses, Meiko Mori sprinkles the crushed bone and ashen remains of her father over the leafy undergrowth of a silent cedar grove that he loved.

"He was always telling us not to spend money on fancy ceremonies," Mori says while sitting on a log after the informal ceremony in the foothills rimming Tokyo. "This is the perfect way to honor him."

About a million Japanese die every year, and cremation is virtually universal. But only about 100 are ushered to the afterlife with their ashes scattered, not stored.

Still, with the remains of nearly 1 million Tokyoites stored at relatives' homes because of a lack of cemetery space and burial plot prices that soar to $20,000 a square meter, ash-scattering could be the look of the future.

Scattering ashes defies ancient Buddhist tradition and, by the native Shinto way of thinking, is shunned for spreading bad omens.

But in reaction to economic hard times, concern for the environment and increasing alienation from religious dogma, more people are challenging the Japanese idea of what it means to pay proper final respects.

The land pinch has inspired some clever innovations such as tiny grave-boxes that look like coin-operated lockers, or computer-operated machines that bring memorials up from space-saving underground storage. Tossing ashes at sea or in rivers is also gaining popularity.

Mori's mountainside is still the only place to sprinkle remains on land in the Tokyo area, where about a fifth of all Japanese live, and it's a two-hour trip from the city center.

Legally there is no problem. But the Buddhist establishment has long opposed the practice, in large part because it's not centered on a gravesite, the anchor of the religion's death rites.

Part of the opposition is financial—selling burial plots in temple courtyards is a major source of income for Buddhist groups. Another money maker is the sale of afterlife names that adorn a tombstone. Bereaved families are obliged to pay up to $8,000 to have an auspicious name inscribed. Ash spreaders often forgo these formalities.

Ancient practices are an important part of the Japanese psyche, however.

Every summer, millions of people flock to ancestral gravesites to pay homage, dance and join in outdoor fairs. The "Ritual of the Dead" is a part of summer most people can't imagine giving up.

"Visiting gravesites is an important Japanese custom," said Mutsumi Yokota at Japan's Cemetery Associations. He called the increasing popularity of spreading ashes "a very bad trend."

But the founder of the Grave-Free society, Mutsuhiko Yasuda, said the movement is merely intended to give people more choice. *AP*

Nepal princess dies in chopper crash

KATMANDU—A princess of Nepal's royal family died Monday when a helicopter crashed in the Rara Lake in western Nepal, the Civil Aviation Authority said.

Rescuers have recovered the body of Princess Prekshya Shah, 49, younger sister of Queen Komal. Three people are still missing while two survivors have been flown to a hospital, the authority said.

The French-built Ecuirrel helicopter failed to gain altitude and went down just moments after taking off and crashed into the lake, about 500 km west of Nepal's capital, Katmandu.

PRINCESS PREKSHYA

Shah had been married to Prince Dhirendra, younger brother of new King Gyanendra. The couple had separated after Dhirendra gave up his royal title and moved to London to live with a British woman.

Dhirendra was killed during the June 1 royal palace massacre, when Crown Prince Dipendra, in a drunken state, gunned down nine members of the royal family, including the King and Queen.

Princess Prekshya was not at the family dinner gathering where the massacre occurred because she stayed home with back problems.

Other people in the helicopter—family friends, a physician and an aide—have been identified by officials as Iswor Basent, Dan Bahadur Shahi, Dr. Rishi Khatri and Sharada Singh, plus the pilot, Rabin Karera. Khatri and Singh have been identified as survivors.

State-run Radio Nepal said Army rescue helicopters had reached the site where the helicopter, which belonged to Fishtail Airlines, was missing. *AP, AFP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2001 A15

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Employee feels heat for urging reforms

VIGAN CITY—The president of a group calling for reforms in the Ilocos Sur provincial government is feeling the heat.

Nestor Segismundo, president of the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa), accused Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano of orchestrating moves to oust him from his current government post.

"I am being persecuted because of my being president of Sisa. They are trying to cut my source of livelihood," Segismundo, an employee of the Department of Agrarian Reform in Bantay town, told the INQUIRER. "I hope the civil service law will protect me."

Savellano, however, denied the accusations of Segismundo.

In a letter to provincial agrarian reform officer Luciano Peros, Segismundo's superior, Savellano said he had received documents regarding Segismundo's "open and blatant protest against the government."

He said Segismundo, a clerk at the DAR office in Bantay town, participated in several protest actions and rallies "tending to malign and discredit the government, an act inimical to unity and progress."

Savellano asked Peros to do something about Segismundo.

Peros, in a letter dated Nov. 12, informed Segismundo that he had formed a committee to look into Savellano's allegations.

He also asked Segismundo to comment in 72 hours why no administrative action should be taken against him.

Segismundo accused the provincial government of "double standard" in applying discipline.

"If you rally against former President Joseph Estrada, they do not find fault in it. If you rally against corruption and for reforms in the province of Ilocos Sur, you are maligning and discrediting the government, according to Governor Savellano," he said. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mercury poisoning of De Oro bay, river blamed on mining

LIBONA, Bukidnon—Officials of Cagayan de Oro City are now mobilizing their constituents to stop the gold mining operation in Barangay Gango here for allegedly causing mercury contamination in the Bigaan River and Macajalar Bay.

City councilors recently passed a resolution requesting President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately stop the mining activity in Gango.

"If this mining activity will continue, the city's marine resources would be endangered due to mercury. The mines' waste water is drained off the Bigaan River and finds its way into the Macajalar Bay," the councilors' resolution said.

Barangay chair Enrico Salcedo of Gusa in Cagayan de Oro, where the Bigaan River is located, said he would mobilize his constituents to rally in front of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Western Mindanao office if mining in Gango would not be stopped.

The Gango gold-rush area and its operations in Libona, Bukidnon, had been the subject of several complaints for several years now.

Complaints vary from siltation to cyanide and mercury poisoning. The latest complaint came from Aiza Fides Ruiz Diaz, a third year high school student of Kong Hua School.

Diaz, in her letter to Councilor Noel Beja, said as a concerned student and one who is aware of the ill effects of mercury to humans, "I am requesting your good office to do something about this disturbing problem (mercury contamination in the Cagayan river and bay)."

In 1997 and last year, two orders were issued by then Bukidnon Gov. Carlos Fortich to stop the use of mercury in the recovery of gold. Fortich also ordered mining operations in Gango shut down.

But on March 27 this year, then Bukidnon Gov. Nemesio Beltran reversed Fortich's orders.

The DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau said tests made on water samples from the river showed that the mercury level went beyond DENR standards.

Mining operator Marlyn Cagaanan said mercury presence in the Bigaan River was a result of the mining firms' practice in the late 1980s and early 1990s of draining their mining waste into the river.

But Cagaanan, who is also the manager of the Manlauyan (Gango) Integrated Miners Multi-Purpose Cooperative, said stopped that practice following orders from the DENR.

The DENR required the cooperative to build a canal to divert waste containing mercury. *Ellen P. Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Diseases stalk typhoon victims

BY RAJ PADILLA
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Officials here Monday started a series of medical missions for the thousands of victims of tropical storm "Nanang" in this city who contracted various kinds of waterborne diseases.

"This is our way of reaching out to our people, especially in the aftermath of typhoon Nanang, which devastated a large part of our city. With the rising costs of medicine and hospitalization, the mission can (address) the health concerns of our people," said Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas.

The medical missions were held in coordination with the SM Foundation. It was held Monday and will continue today at the Jaro Plaza Covered Gym for victims in Jaro district. From Nov. 15-16, it will be conducted at the La Paz Plaza Covered Gym for victims in La Paz district; and, on Nov. 19, at the Mandurriao Public Plaza for victims in Mandurriao district.

The mayor also urged all city residents, particularly the poor, to avail of the medical mission.

The city government, through the City Health Office, provides the medical staff for the mission while the SM Foundation paid for the medicines distributed for free to the victims.

Thirteen city physicians will handle the mission, which is the first to be conducted under the Treñas administration. The Manila-based foundation, on the other hand, sent to Iloilo 83 boxes of assorted medicines ranging from those used to treat cough, cold, fever and the flu to health problems brought about by water-borne diseases like typhoid fever, amoebiasis, diarrhea and many others.

The medicines will include antibiotics.

The medicines are projected to benefit some 20,000 people.

Apart from the medicines, the foundation also shelled out some P100,000 worth of assorted grocery items to the Iloilo City Social Welfare and Development Office.

The foundation is a project of SM Group of Companies chair Henry Sy Sr. and wife, Felicidad, and is being run by actress and former Quezon City Vice Mayor Connie Angeles.

Iloilo City, which was placed under a state of calamity, was one of the areas badly hit by Nanang. As of Saturday evening, the number of affected barangays in Iloilo City climbed to 139, with 37,139 victim families. Iloilo City has 180 barangays.

Muslim priest seized on Davao City street

DAVAO CITY—Police are now tracking down the Muslim priest (*imam*) who was reportedly abducted by five unidentified men in Tagum City on Saturday afternoon.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police chief, said he already ordered his men, particularly the Tagum City Police Office, to conduct a thorough investigation of the alleged abduction of Hadji Said Cosain.

The abduction occurred just as police here are still clueless on the disappearance of Canadian Pierre Belanger on Nov. 3 in Balutakay, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur.

Police later claimed that Belanger's alleged abduction could be a case of Belanger faking his abduction to raise money.

Police did not elaborate.

In a local radio interview Monday morning, Matillano urged the Muslim community to stay calm as the city's police force is doing all it can to recover the victim as soon as possible.

He admitted, though, that police still have to identify the group who could be behind the victim's abduction. Police also have not established any motive for the abduction.

Earlier reports said the victim was standing near the Islamic Center on Pioneer Avenue around 1 p.m. Saturday when a black L-300 van stopped near him.

Five armed men immediately got off and forced the victim to ride with them.

Most kidnapping victims in Mindanao were businessmen and non-Muslims.

Most of the kidnappings were blamed on the bandit group Abu Sayyaf and other criminal elements in the region, including the newly emerged group Pentagon.

The Abu Sayyaf continues to elude government troopers who were sent to run after the bandits. *Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MINING PHILIPPINES 2001 MMAJ

THEME: MINING—ENGINE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

CONFERENCE: 21-22 November 2001

VENUE: Isla Ballroom, EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Manila, Philippines

This bi-yearly conference and exhibits has been going on for two years and has brought together companies and people involved in the business of mineral exploration and development. This year, we have expanded the scope to include energy resources such as oil and gas as well as coal. The event's selected components, namely: streams of policy and technical paper presentation, trade show, investors' exchange and social, sports and guest programs have been formulated to give as much benefits as possible to all attendees.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines and the Metal Mining Agency of Japan (MMAJ), including all professional organizationsand associations dealing with mineral resource development together with our coordinating agencies from the government, hope to give a new perspective to the mining industry in its aim to alleviate poverty through the sustainable development of untapped mineral resources.

It is our belief that minerals and energy resources are God-given wealth for the nation to develop and utilize for the good of the country and its people. The environmental and social concerns in the industry have been well addressed by regulations and the clamor of local government units for a greater share from minerals and energy resource development is currently being dealt with.

Organized by:
Chamber of Mines of the Philippines
Philippine Mine Safety & Environment Association (PMSEA)
Philippine Society of Mining Engineers (PSEM)
Philippine Mineral Exploration Association (PMEA)
Geological Society of the Philippines (GSP)
Society of Metallurgical Engineers of the Philippines (SMEP)

In coordination with:
Department of Energy
Mines and Geosciences Bureau/DENR
PHILEXPORT

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Fax No.: (632) 635-4160 E-mail: comp@vasia.com

Mr. J.M. Glenn P. Batilando, *President*
The Philippine Society of Mining Engineers
Tel. No.: (632) 815-9447; 816-2397
Fax No.: (632) 812-0451, E-mail: secretariat@psem.ph

PROGRAM

DAY ONE - Wednesday, 21 November 2001
7:00-8:30 **Registration**
START OF FORMAL OPENING CEREMONIES
8:30-8:35 **Invocation**
Mr. Benjamin Philipp G. Romualdez
Chairman & President, **Benguet Corp.**
8:35-8:40 **National Anthem**
Mr. Danilo V. Rulloda, *Director*
Philippine Mine Safety & Environment Association
8:40-8:45 **Welcome Remarks**
Mr. Artemio F. Disini
President, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines
8:45-9:00 **Opening Remarks**
Mr. Gerard H. Brimo
Chairman, Chamber of Mines of the Philippines
9:00-9:05 **Introduction of the Keynote Speaker**
Mr. Horacio C. Ramos
Direcctor, Mines and Geosciences Bureau
9:05-9:30 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**
Hon. Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
9:30-10:00 **BREAK**
(Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez tours the exhibit together with officials from DENR/MGB and other government offices, the Chamber of Mines and Metal Mining Agency of Japan and presidents of professional associations.)

THE STATE OF THE PHILIPPINE MINING INDUSTRY
Dr. Rudy C. Obial — *Moderator*
10:00-10:20 **The Philippine Mining Industry in the National Development Framework**
Dr. Dante B. Canlas, Director General
National Economic Development Authority
10:20-10:40 **The Malampaya Deep Water Gas to Power Project: Transforming the Vision into Reality**
Mr. David Greer
Managing Director, Shell Phils. Exploration B.V.
10:40-11:00 **DENR Thrusts and Programs for the Mining Industry**
Director Horacio C. Ramos
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
11:00-11:20 **How the Mining Industry Can Trigger and Sustain Development and Help Alleviate Poverty**
Gov. Raul M. Molintas, Benguet Province
11:20-11:40 **Investment Incentives in the Mining Industry**
Gov. Jose Antonio C. Leviste, Board of Investments
11:40-12:00 **OPEN FORUM**
12:00-1:00 **LUNCH BREAK**
Luncheon Speakers
H.E. Robert Collette, Canadian Embassy and
Dr. Jack Garnett, Int'l Mineral Policy Consultant

Ms. Redempta P. Baluda — *Moderator*
1:00-1:20 **The Philippine Mineral Development Council**
Mr. F. Kennedy C. Coronel, Executive Director
Foundation for Economic Freedom
1:20-1:40 **Mineral Resources Development in the Philippines: Looking Ahead**
Asst. Director Edwin G. Domingo
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
1:40-2:00 **Responsive Land Use Policy Toward a More Liberalized Climate for the Mining Industry**
Ms. Delia D. Josef, Manager - Planning & Dev. Control
Bonifacio Estate Services Corporation
2:00-2:20 **Discovery of the Boyogan Copper-Gold Porphyry Deposit, Surigao Del Norte, North East Mindanao**
Mr. Patrick J. Waters, President
Anglo American Exploration Phils., Inc.
2:20-2:40 **Development of the Rapu-Rapu Pometalic Project**
Mr. Rod D. Watt, Country Manager
Lafayette Philippines, Inc.
2:40-3:00 **Building Community Partnership: The Process and Advantages of Starting Early**
Mr. Victor A. Francisco, Chief Environmental and Community Development Officer
Philex Mining Corporation
3:00-3:20 **Flotation - Lepanto's Answer to the High Copper Problems**
Mr. Virgilio G. Medina, VP for Project Development
Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company
3:20-3:40 OPEN FORUM / SNACKS

GLOBAL/REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY ISSUES
Mr. Cornelio Q. Casido —*Moderator*
3:40-4:00 **Challenges facing the Mining Inndustry of the Asia Pacific Region**
Dr. Allen L. Clark
East-West Center, Hawaii
4:00-4:20 **Decentralizing Mineral Development Efforts: The Case of Indonesia**
Mr. Benni N. Wahju
Chairman, Indonesian Mining Association
4:20-4:40 **Mining Sector Reform and Investments**
Mr. Koh Naito, Mining Specialist
International Affairs Department
National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology
4:40-5:00 **The Protecctionn of Indigeneous People by Mining Concerns**
Dr. Jennifer Cook Clark, President
PACRIM Resource Development, Hawaii
5:00-5:20 **Mining Sector Development Through Private Investment**
Mr. Takuro Kimura
Senior Investment Officer, Mining Department
The World Bank Group
5:20-5:40 OPEN FORUM
5:40 CLOSING OF DAY ONE

DAY TWO - Thursday, 22 November 2001
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Dr. Rolando V. Cuaño / Mr. Michael Cabalda
Moderators
9:00-9:20 **Sharing the Resource Rent and Enhancing People's Welfare in the Countryside**
Hon. Cong. Mauricio G. Domogan, Baguio City
9:20-9:40 **Enhancing Local Partnership in Mining Development, Mankayan Looking Forward**
Atty. Maternno Luspian, Municipal Mayor
Municipality of Mankayan, Province of Benguet
9:40-10:00 **Economics and Social Costs of the Constitutionality Issue of the FTAA and the Mining Act**
Mr. F. Kenndy C. Coronel
Executive Director, Foundation for Economic Freedom
10:00-10:20 OPEN FORUM / SNACKS
10:20-10:40 **Understanding Social Acceptability and the Social Development Management in the Mines**
Ms. Redempta P. Baluda, Manager
Environment and Community Relations Division
Philex Mining Corporation
10:40-11:00 **The Role of Governments in Mine Closure**
Mr. Taro Kamiya, Deputy Director
Metal Mining Agency of Japan
11:00-11:20 **Mining Exploration and Development: Building the 21th Century**
Mr. Edgar Martinez, President
Mindanao Association for Mineral Industries, Inc.
11:20-11:40 OPEN FORUM
11:40-1:00 LUNCH BREAK

INFORMATION EDUCATION AND TECHNICAL ISSUES
Mr. Glenn P. Batilando — *Moderator*
1:00-1:20 **NRDC Mining Corporation - A Vehicle to Create Public Wealth**
Atty. Alfredo R. Rosal, Jr.
President, Natural Resources Development Corp.
1:20-1:40 **The Plight of the Local Cement Industry**
Mr. Renato Sunico, Executive Vice President
Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corporation
1:40-2:00 **Philippine Mining: Are part of the Solution or Part of the Problem?**
Mr. Patrick V. Caole, President
Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Assocciation and Vulcan Materials Corporation
2:00-2:20 **The JICA-DENR/MGB Capability Building Project for Environmental Management in Mining**
Mr. Takeshi Usami, Chief Adviser
JICA/DENR/MGB Project
2:20-2:40 **Victoria Gold Operation of Lepanto**
Mankayan, Benguet, Philippines, GEMCOM Application
Ms. Liezl G. Cuison, Sr. Geologist
Lepanto Consolidated Mining Company
2:40-3:00 **Mining Revisited**
Fr. Peter Walpole, Director
Environmental Science for Social Change
3:00-3:20 OPEN FORUM / SNACKS
3:20-3:40 **Reversing the Negative Perceptions on Mining: The Need for a Massive IEC**
Ms. Cynthia L. De Leon, former National Editor
The Manila Times
3:40-4:00 **Will the Philippine Mining Industry Bounce Back?**
Mr. Peter Wallace, President
AYC Consultants, Inc.
4:00-4:20 **Highlights of the Results of the Professional Group's Workshop on Revitalizing the Mining Industry: Looking Ahead**
Dr. Pablito Ong/Dr. Rudy C. Obial
Chairman/Co-Chairman, Oversight Committee
The Philippine Mineral Industry Revitalization Workshop 2001
4:20-4:40 OPEN FORUM / SNACKS
4:40-5:00 **Submission of Industry Resolution to** DENR Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez and the Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives
5:00-5:20 **Closing Remarks**
Mr. Kenji Sawada
Director-General, Mineral Information Center
Metal Mining Agency of Japan
5:20 END OF THE CONFERENCE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Southern Luzon and Eastern Visayas. Mindanao will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 20°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Widespread Rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Calapan	Widespread Rains	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Widespread Rains	Hi 33° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 22°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/14/01

ROUNDUP

Tree cloning lab opened

ITOGON, Benguet—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez inaugurated a tree cloning laboratory and nursery at the Itogon Integrated Watershed Management Project in Barangay Mambolo here last week. The project would pave the way for the mass production of quality planting materials that the town's residents would use in their livelihood and reforestation activities. Alvarez also awarded the livelihood agreement contracts to Itogon village officials.

Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Fire hits school

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Fire razed on Sunday the main building of the school where former President Fidel Ramos studied in the 1940s. Reports said 16 classrooms and the library of the Lingayen Central Elementary School were destroyed by fire. The fire also destroyed the offices where students' records were kept. Arson investigators ruled out faulty wiring as the cause.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cops with unlicensed guns

COTABATO CITY—A police officer assigned to Maguindanao was caught on Friday in possession of unlicensed firearms that included a machinegun. Police said P02 Jonathan Musama offered no resistance when the raiding team barged into his rented house along De Mazenod Avenue here. Musama, a suspect in big-time gun smuggling, confessed that a policeman-brother of his assigned to Camp Crame was shipping the guns and ammunitions to him. He told police he has another brother connected with the Marawi City police office. The names of Musama's brothers were withheld.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Reminder on kids' rights

OROQUIETA CITY—A judge of a family court here reminded public prosecutors and media practitioners in Misamis Occidental to be careful in dealing with sensational cases involving minors. Judge Ma. Nimfa Penaco-Sitaca, also of the Regional Trial Court, in a letter said there was a need to keep the identities of minors as confidential as possible to protect them. Sitaca issued the appeal after some newsmen identified in their stories a father who was convicted of death for raping his daughter. "Disclosing the names of the accused… charged with the rape of their daughters… nullifies our efforts because the identities of the daughters are naturally traceable to their fathers," Sitaca wrote. She said she was not curtailing freedom of the press but that "we must be on guard to protect the identities of the minors and shield them from… harmful publicity," Sitaca said.

Ryan B. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Couple held for drugs

ATIMONAN, Quezon—A husband-and-wife team long wanted by the police for being one of the major suppliers of illegal drugs in this coastal town was arrested during a raid on the couple's hideout Sunday afternoon. Police identified the suspects as Alejandro Eroles and his wife Analiza, both residents of Barangay Riverside Zone-4, this municipality. The raiding team from the Quezon police intelligence and investigation division seized plastic sachets that contain at least 3 grams of high-grade shabu ready for distribution, shabu paraphernalia, a knife and P2,000.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Décor from waste

LUCENA CITY—The city government's General Services Office has launched the "Basurang Gayak, Paskong Magalak" Christmas decoration contest using recycled materials. City administrator Danilo Cada said the project aims to promote the use of recyclable items for Christmas decorations. "In garbage, there is also money, aside from the… fun of transforming them into exquisite holiday items," he said.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Malnutrition alarming

LUCENA CITY—Lucena City councilor Buena Lequin has expressed alarm over the rising number of malnourished children here. According to Lequin, committee on health and sanitation council chair, the city has now a total of 9,348 children with various degrees of malnutrition. She reported that based on a survey conducted by the City Health Office in the city's 33 barangays, the health team found that there were 255 cases of youngsters with severe vitamin deficiency. The age range of malnourished children is from infancy to 6 years old. Lequin said the city government would need at least P6.7 million and at least two nutritionists to address the problem.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Thugs shot, wounded

LEGAZPI CITY—Unidentified armed men, allegedly victims of beating by bystanders here, fought back with guns, wounding three of their attackers. Three of the attackers are in critical condition in a government hospital after the armed men fired at them while they were sitting on a bridge near the Estevez Memorial Hospital in Guevarra Subdivision, this city, Sunday night. Senior Supt. Romeo Mapalo, Legazpi police chief, identified the wounded as Eduardo Mediavillo, 21, Henry Bárba, 30, and Giovanni de Lumen, 25, all residents of the place. The gunmen are still at large. The area has been tagged as one of the most dangerous places in this city where a drug ring has been identified by authorities and found to have existed for years now. Thugs have already killed several people in the area, including a media man who died of brain hemorrhage recently after being shot with a sling by a village toughie.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Witness boosts case vs Pacificador

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—An accused-turned-witness yesterday stuck to his earlier testimony that the son and the lawyer of former Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador met with co-accused Eduardo "Boy Muslim" Iran on the eve of and shortly after the murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier in February 1986.

Arleen Limoso, 43, told the court here yesterday that he saw lawyer and co-accused Avelino Javellana inside Pacificador's rest house in Barangay Taringting in this town with Iran on the eve of Javier's killing on Feb. 10, 1986. The two stayed inside the rest house from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m., he said.

Iran has been tagged as the leader of the armed group that killed Javier and wounded four others in a daylight attack.

Iran's whereabouts remain unknown even as unconfirmed reports said that he was killed in Malaysia sometime last year.

Limoso said he saw Javellana again a few hours after Javier's killing. He was with Pacificador's son, Rodolfo, in Pacificador's house in Barangay Lapaz in Hamtic town where Iran and his group went after Javier's killing. Limoso said he saw Javellana gave a thumbs-up sign to Iran.

Earlier on Feb. 6, Javellana and Rodolfo met with the former assemblyman in the Taringting rest house, said Limoso.

Limoso, a former intelligence agent of the Philippine Marines, admitted he failed to see or hear Javellana conversing with Iran inside the rest house on Feb. 10. He also failed to hear what the Pacificadors and Javellana were talking about on Feb 6.

He made these allegations during the resumption of the trial of the case on Monday morning and early yesterday before Judge Rudy Castrojas of the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12.

Castrojas is hearing the petition for bail of the accused.

Limoso said from Feb. 6-11, 1986, he stayed in a house beside Pacificador's rest house inside a compound in Barangay Taringting.

During his stay, he said he met Iran and several other men inside the compound. He also claimed seeing high-powered firearms inside the house where he stayed.

Javellana told the INQUIRER yesterday that there were discrepancies between Limoso's testimony and that of the other prosecution witnesses.

Javellana said Limoso did not mention seeing him arrive at the Taringting rest house with another accused, Jimmy Punzalan, carrying a sack containing firearms as alleged by the other prosecution witnesses.

But State Prosecutor Leo Dacera III, head of the prosecution panel, said the slight discrepancies were immaterial. "This only shows our witness was not coached or rehearsed" he said.

Pacificador, his son Rodolfo, Javellana, Iran, Punzalan and 11 others, mostly former members of the defunct Philippine Constabulary, are facing murder, frustrated murder and attempted murder charges in connection with Javier's killing.

Pacificador, a close ally of then President Ferdinand Marcos, was tagged as the mastermind in the Javier killing.

The next hearing is set on Dec. 14. Private prosecutor Aurelio Trampe said they would conduct a redirect examination of Limoso, their 20th and last witness, before the prosecution rests its case.

Army captures 2 kidnap suspects

COTABATO CITY—Two members of the Pentagon kidnap gang, linked to the recent abduction of a Filipino-Chinese rice trader from Cotabato province, were arrested on Sunday, the military said Monday.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said Abdila Abas, 45 and Rasad Aras, 32, both of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao did not resist arrest.

Ando said the military also confiscated an Armalite rifle and a handgun from the suspects.

He said the arrest of the two suspected kidnappers came after the Army responded to civilians' tip that armed men and a woman arrived in Barangay Kirkir.

The woman, Ando said, was believed to be Martina Martin, who was seized by the Pentagon inside her rice mill in Libungan, Cotabato, on Nov. 4.

The kidnap gang demanded P15 million in ransom but the victim's family said they could not afford it.

Ando said Abas and Aras would be turned over to the Cotabato police provincial office for interrogation.

At least 15 Pentagon members have been arrested since the group gained notoriety when it admitted it was behind the abduction of a Chinese engineer working on an irrigation project site in Carmen, North Cotabato.

Last week, operatives of the Army's Special Forces Battalion arrested three suspected Pentagon gang members, including a sub-commander, following a brief firefight in Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao.

Commander Bantulingan, Nasser Pagayao and another suspect were arrested in Barangay Tugal, Sultan sa Barongis town.

Pentagon spokesperson Faizal Marohombsar had denied his group's involvement in the Martin kidnapping and instead blamed the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, laughed off Faizal's claim saying it was meant to discredit the MILF. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GRIM

EDWIN BACASMAS

Even the toughest of men could not stand the sight and smell of the destruction and death that typhoon "Nanang" brought to the province of Camiguin. But the scene has to unfold in front of villagers who look on as bodies are recovered, hoping perhaps that the next one wouldn't be one of their loved ones.

150 workers lose jobs in Clark ecozone

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Nora Guzon, 29, found herself without a job on Monday. The gates of the Peninsula Fashion International Corp. (PFIC), one of this zone's biggest garment makers, were locked from the inside, preventing Guzon and 149 other workers from entering the factory.

Corazon Capili, president of the Unified Workers of PFIC, said the 150 workers who were thrown out of work on Monday were mostly regular employees.

The company employs 178 regular workers, 131 part-timers and 372 contract workers.

The first batch that went unemployed last September were 15 regular workers who had been with the company since it opened five years ago.

Capili said the firm, which is owned by a British, cited economic losses and canceled export orders in its notice of retrenchment filed last month at the regional Department of Labor and Employment.

Last week, Capili said the company revised its notice. This time, it told DOLE it's shutting down temporarily.

Despite claims of losses and cuts in export quotas, the management has subcontracted its work, tapping 20 garment manufacturers, she said.

Machines and fabrics are reportedly being transferred to a warehouse outside Clark, indicating the firm's plan to close.

"If it was really in the red, as it claimed it is, why then is the company continuing with its production elsewhere?" Capili asked.

The union filed a complaint of illegal termination. The union also assailed the DOLE for not sending any labor inspector since complaints of illegal layoffs were reported last September.

Clark Development Corp. officials admitted being unaware of the workers' problems with the company.

Rolando Tongco, CDC special projects manager, said the retrenchments came at a wrong time and said the CDC would exert efforts to save jobs, at least for some more months.

From January to September this year, Clark registered the biggest number of layoffs among four major economic zones in Central Luzon.

The DOLE reported that at least 11,955 workers from Central Luzon have lost their jobs since January, a number that was more than twice the total number of displaced employees last year.

By province, layoff figures in Pampanga more than doubled, reaching 4,512 as of September. Bulacan, which registered the third biggest number of retrenchments last year, was second at 3;037. Bataan, which in September last year had the most job losses, slid to third at 2,758.

At least 7,085 workers were displaced from Clark, the Bataan Economic Zone, the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales and the Luisita Industrial Park in Tarlac.

At least 79 of the 198 distressed companies were located in four economic zones, mainly Clark and Subic. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Workers welcome move to curb cement dumping

WORKERS' groups in cement factories in the Visayas and Mindanao hailed the government decision to impose a provisional tariff on imported cement of P20.60 per bag.

Workers from Mindanao Portland Cement Corp., Titan Cement, Lloyds Richfield and Rizal Cement, which had been closed because of the indiscriminate dumping of cheap, imported cement, also welcomed the government's decision to enforce a non-tariff barrier to give locally-manufactured cement an even chance in competing with imported cement. This tariff barrier is similar to the non-tariff walls already existing in Taiwan and Malaysia that barred Philippine cement into their markets.

The workers' groups said the government's decisive action staved off an imminent collapse of the cement industry.

They said the indiscriminate and unbridled dumping of foreign cement by traders drove out of business four local cement manufacturers and rendered jobless thousands of Filipino workers.

The cement industry workers' groups said only 10 firms, mostly small trading companies and a bogus organization, nearly wrecked the country's multi-billion peso cement manufacturing industry in less than five years by dumping and smuggling foreign-made cement into the country in violation of Philippine and international trade laws.

Dumping happens when goods shipped to another country are sold at prices much lower than in their home countries.

Citing Department of Trade and Industry and Bureau of Customs documents, the cement workers' groups said 10 cement traders have so far dumped in the Philippines more than 3.1 million tons of foreign cement since 1999 and have cornered 35 percent of the local cement market.

These firms have been importing cement from Taiwan at a "dumping" price of P86 per bag and from Indonesia at only P52 per bag. They retail it here for P137.50-P150 a bag, almost equal to the price of Philippine-made cement, giving them a profit of P58 to P92 a bag, they said.

The retail price of cement in Taiwan is equivalent to P137.89 a bag and in Indonesia P92.75 a bag, much higher than their landed costs in the Philippines, which World Trade Organization rules define as "dumping."

They said the major cement importers and traders, except for one owned by Japanese and another by a Hong Kong firm, are local family-owned corporations or sole proprietorships known in their business circles as "overnight billionaires."

Leading the pack, based on records at the Securities and Exchange Commission is a San Juan firm with a capital of P5.231 million with 20 non-supervisory workers. It reported a profit in 1999 of P5,312,500.

The family that controls it also owns another San Juan firm which is also listed by Bureau of Customs as a major cement importer.

The other big importers are firms in Davao City, Mandaue City, Iloilo City.

Cops file arson raps vs rebels at large

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Arson charges were filed Tuesday against eight of more than 50 communist rebels for last weekend's burning of transmission installations owned by three telecommunication firms in five Luzon provinces.

Police filed the charges against Antonio Calina, also known as Ka Emil, and seven unidentified men at the provincial prosecutor's office in Balanga City in Bataan, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police chief, told reporters here.

All eight are still at large.

Berroya said Calina, a New People's Army commander of the Josepino Corpuz Command's Bataan front, was identified by two witnesses from police file photographs.

Calina, he added, was also charged with the murder of Chief Insp. Guillermo Tolentino in June last year, also in Bataan.

But another communist armed group, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan, claimed responsibility for the killing of Tolentino.

Arson, depending on the extent of damages, is punishable by death or imprisonment. The three communication firms Globe Telecom, Smart and Piltel have not reported how much damage they incurred or if their security guards were harmed during the attacks.

Berroya on Tuesday insisted that the NPA was involved in the attacks, echoing information volunteered by a "reliable source" that Globe Telecoms, aside from Smart and Piltel, was a victim of the arson assaults in Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Pangasinan.

He said Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pangasinan police director, was misquoted in news reports where he supposedly aired doubts over the NPA's role in the attacks.

"I am 99 percent sure it is the NPA," Berroya told the INQUIRER by telephone.

The Globe source, according to him, reported that the rebels were demanding P8 million in monthly revolutionary taxes.

Berroya said the torching, which was separately carried out by masked men in military uniforms from 5:30 p.m. Saturday until dawn Sunday, came after the companies reportedly rejected the NPA demands.

The NPA's Central Luzon command has not officially confirmed or denied carrying out the attacks or demanding revolutionary taxes from the telecommunication firms.

But Globe Telecom, Berroya said, has sought the support of local officials in securing cell sites in the villages. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ◘ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

The trouble with peace

Peace zones of Sagada, Bangilo revisited

By Frank Cimatu
Mt. Province

STING was still singing "Fragile" at Shamrock Café when the bell tolled. It was 9 p.m. and as residents of Sagada, Mt. Province, have been habitually known for the past 10 years, it was the last call for alcohol.

Many towns in the Cordillera have imposed local curfews to curb drinking among the men but in Sagada, curfew was imposed by the residents to preserve peace in the town.

You can drink all you want in your own home, for after 9 p.m., the town center is a no-man's land.

Sagada Mayor Thomas Killip said the residents can easily lift the curfew but no one really wants to.

"Many have said, 'It's easy for some of you rich ones to drink and be noisy on the streets at night but the rest of us have to have our sleep.' Sagada is still a farming town," Killip said.

Sagada residents are either the most tolerant or the most hospitable people in this side of the Cordillera, where headhunting was still practiced less than a century ago.

Foreigners feel more at home in Sagada than in the tourist town of Banaue in Ifugao. Many artists have recently migrated there and thought of even settling in the town.

But these idyll dreams were jarred in the late 1980s when the New People's Army and the military had their standoffs and skirmishes in Sagada.

Journalist Marilou Guieb, who then had a flourishing art shop in Sagada, remembered how tense it was in those times. "I would be followed by soldiers anywhere I went," she said. In the end, she and other artists like potter Jaime de Guzman had no recourse but to abandon Sagada.

In 1989, a retired Episcopal priest was killed by NPA rebels, mistaking him for a soldier when he failed to stop at an NPA checkpoint. A deep penetration agent known as "Ka Juan" started fingering cadres and supporters in Mt. Province. Two residents were killed by soldiers at Shamrock Café.

But what struck the hardest came earlier when three children died during an encounter in the latter part of 1988.

Fragile experiment

Residents called for demilitarization. It was at this time that the Coalition for Peace and other groups chose Sagada as one of the 10 peace zones in the country. Thus began the "fragile experiment," as writer Erlyn Alcantara described it.

Fast-forward to 2001.

Killip, who more than 10 years ago was branded by the military as "Ka Alas," one of the supposed leading cadres, received the Gawad Lingkod Bayan Award for the peace zone concept.

When asked if the peace zone remains relevant until now, Killip said: "If there is another standoff, we can call easily the peace and order council. It will still be relevant."

Last month, the National Program for Unification and Development (NPUD) came out with a report on the Sagada peace zone and the Bangilo peace zone in Malibcong, Abra.

The Bangilo peace zone is composed of the villages of Buanao, Umnap and Lat-ey. It was a "hot zone" in the late 1980s and early 1990s between the military and the NPA and the Cordillera People's Liberation Army, which broke away from the NPA.

The two were among the seven peace zones declared by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon in 1993 as special development areas, on the notion that there would be no lasting peace without development.

Each of the seven areas was given P5 million for community development projects. Bangilo chose these projects: road improvement and construction of a 7.8-km road from Malibcong poblacion to Bangilo border (amounting to P1.02 million); a herbal garden and mini-drug store (P165,000), a credit cooperative (P220,000) and procurement of communication equipment and farm animals (P1.145 million).

Sagada asked for P5 million for a 25-km waterworks system servicing 14 villages.

The NPUD found that Bangilo had a hard time keeping its part of the agreement.

"The (road) projects were completed but since it was lacking drainage system and because of soil erosion due to the area's high terrain, the road is no longer passable for transport," the report said.

No one maintained the herbal garden and some of the money were lent to people of which no records were kept. The P50,000 for the communication equipment was also misused. The drug store was reportedly built but the NPUD monitoring team found no such store.

Only half of the P65,000 meant for medicines was used and many of the medicines bought were useless for what the people needed.

The lending service went its way but the borrowers used it for repairing their houses instead of starting a business and it took the lenders a long time to pay. Money supposedly for the dispersal of carabaos was used instead for a microhydro project.

Excluding the fund for the microhydro project, Bangilo had P3.276 million, according to the Land Bank of the Philippines in Bangued. The NPUD and all other agencies signed a memorandum of agreement transferring the implementation of the next projects from Bangilo to the provincial government.

The remaining money was set for the microhydro project but Buanao residents filed a resolution requesting the realignment of the funds for the purchase of a rice and corn mill and a public utility vehicle. The Buanao residents said the microhydro might be detrimental to the environment.

The NPUD assumed that Barangays Buanao and Umnap were still interested in the microhydro so a team went there last August.

Better record

They found out that the funds supposed to be released for the microhydro's crossflow turbine (P50,000) and public vehicle (P325,000) were not yet released.

It turned out that Alberto Bernardo, then Bangilo special development area coordinator, was so engrossed in his mayoral bid that the funds were not released. It also turned out that Umnap had yet to agree with the microhydro project.

Sagada had a better record. Two pump stations were set up to service Barangays Demang, Dagdag, Ambasing and Poblacion. The waterworks system was installed in 1998.

But the project required the organization of serviced consumers for the management and collection of service fees for the sustainability of the project. A water district or service cooperative is expected to be formed by the end this year.

With minor revisions, the waterworks system is now completed. The remaining fund of more than P640,000 will be set aside for the existing water supply system.

As to why one peace zone is in hot water while the other is allowed for hot showers, the NPUD said it is based on the quality of leadership.

Its report said Bangilo's leaders were chosen not for their technical skills and cooperative management but on seniority or status of authority. It said that the traditional council of elders in Bangilo was running the show and not the cooperative thus formed.

But in letting the provincial government to take over the show may not also be a good decision.

"In the case of Bangilo, there are no strong indicators that the previous provincial government of Abra carried its tasks effectively, the area is seldom visited and consultation is made only upon the on-site consultation by NPUD," the report said.

But Sagada is still led by traditional forms of leadership.

Maybe what spelled the difference is that one town still tolled the bell to remind them of the peace they had lost and still fighting for, while the other thought that peace is something you can cash in on.

Benguet's calla lilies have come a long way

YOU know November is nearing when you see the edge of the vegetable fields along Halsema Highway dotted with the immaculate white blooms of calla lilies.

Benguet farmers earn extra cash from selling these lilies for All Saints' Day and for various occasions, especially for wedding ceremonies.

But not all calla lilies are destined for the cemeteries, altars and tabletops. Lately they have become the stars of international flower trade fairs.

Since 1999, the King Louie in Benguet, which is one of the biggest flower farms in the country, has been exporting 200,000 to 300,000 calla lilium bulbs to The Netherlands every year.

King Louie buys the bulbs at P2 each from farmers and then package and ship them to The Netherlands, the acknowledged "flower capital of the world."

Even the Benguet State University is getting into the act. Dr. Leoncia Tandang, head of the

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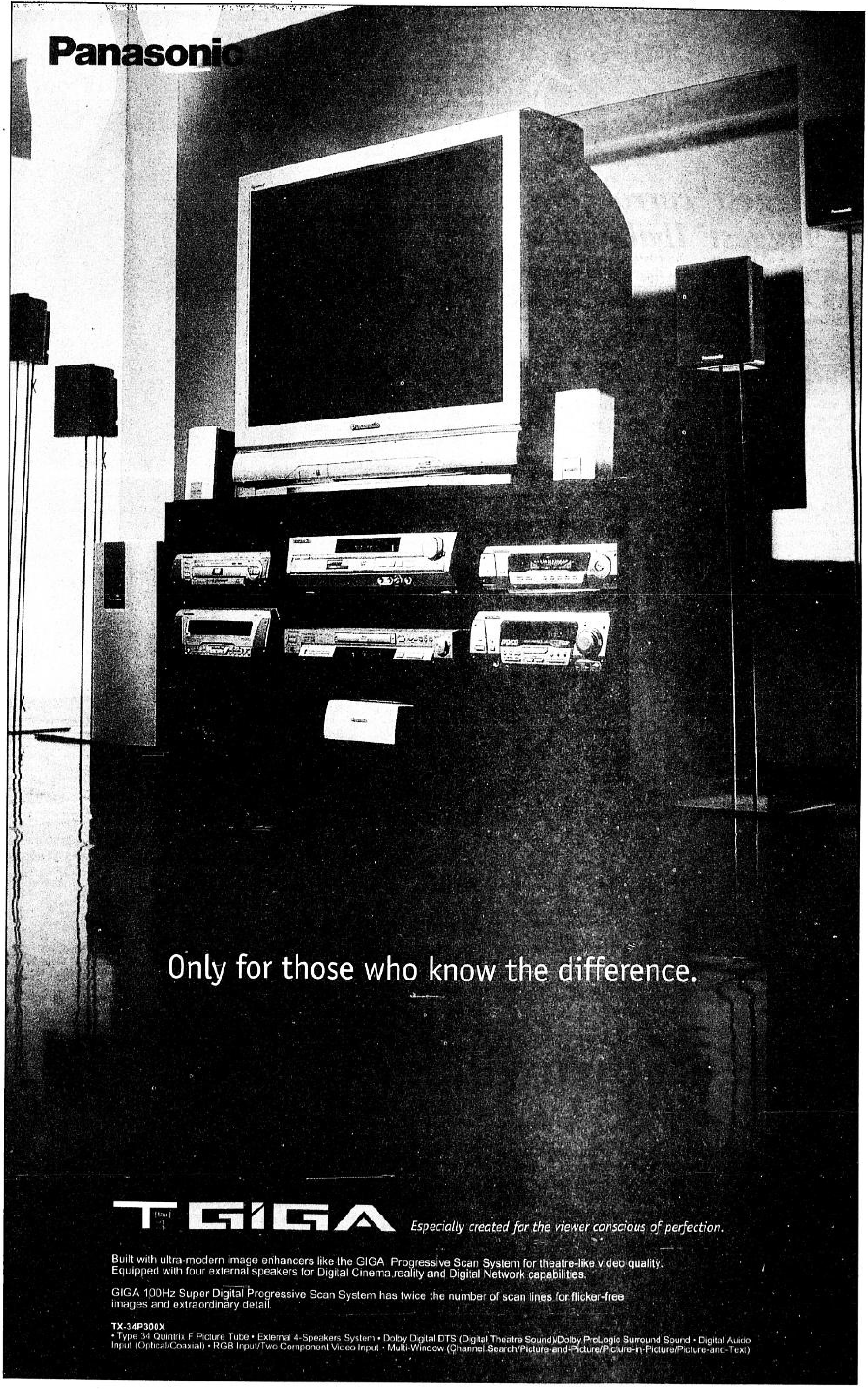
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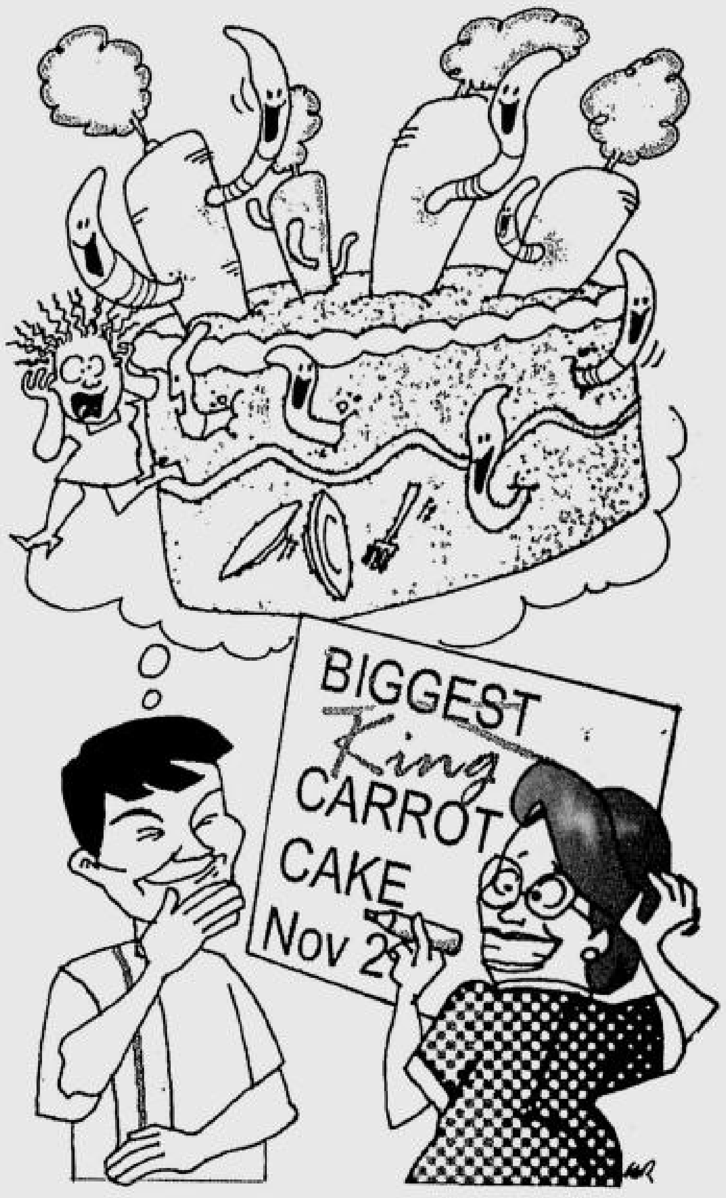


'Biggest' carrot cake, 'biggest' Ibaloi joke

DON'T ask Ibalois for their biggest carrot cake on Benguet's 101st founding anniversary this month. In the Ibaloi dialect, "biggest" sounds like *biges,* the local term for worm.

This lexicographical lesson is also a joke in Benguet, which aims to bake the "biggest carrot cake" in Philippine history as a sequel to Baguio City's record-holding feat when it tossed a salad large enough to be consumed by 5,000 guests on Sept. 16.

The Department of Tourism already re-packaged this proposed visitor-drawing gimmick for Benguet's charter anniversary on Nov. 23 to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The biggest cake turned into an (overnight) joke because *biges* is worm in the dialect and that meant we were about to prepare the largest worm cake in history," Purificacion Molintas, DOT Cordillera director, said.

"We now call it the 'King Carrot Cake,' and that is how we labeled it to President Macapagal-Arroyo. It will be as huge as we predicted," Molintas told the INQUIRER.

Ms Macapagal, who spent the All Saints' Day holiday in Baguio City, had gamely pitched Baguio and the Cordillera's tourism program to her fellow vacationers.

Tourism economics

"This is part of (the President's) tourism economics," said Molintas.

Baguio drew a 99-percent increase in visitor arrivals during the long weekend, based on a DOT survey. According to the survey, eight of the city's 16 large hotels were fully booked from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4.

All bus lines servicing the Baguio route had to triple their route schedules, due to the high influx of domestic tourists, Molintas said.

"It is still uncertain if the President can join the (Benguet charter anniversary) festivities, although we will be sending her an official invitation. Her schedule is hectic because of her trips abroad," she said.

But whether she makes it or not, the King Carrot Cake will be "as certain as it was billed."

'Lumpia' carrots

Rose Dulnuan, organizing chair of the festivities, said Benguet farmers are ready to allocate for the 12- x4-foot cake from 300 and 600 kilos of "*lumpia* carrots," a local reference to a carrot variety commonly used for the favorite Filipino dish. The cake will be about a foot thick.

The cake's rectangular base will be baked in sections by the Baguio Country Club chefs and will be assembled into its large-scale version for viewing on Nov. 23.

The cake is expected to feed up to 5,000 people.

Alex Balangcod, Benguet planning officer, said *mambunongs* (native priests), who will perform a *cañao* for the event, will offer 28 native pigs to the spirits to ask them to grant a good harvest of vegetables, particularly carrots next year.

"Through the *cañao*, we know we can ask blessings from Kabunian (Supreme Being) to pray for a good harvest of carrots and other vegetables for next year," Balangcod said, noting a poor harvest of carrots this year.

Public display

The King Carrot Cake will be displayed for public exhibition at 1 p.m. on Nov. 23 at the session hall of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Benguet.

The cake will also use 825 fresh eggs, spices, cinnamon, all-purpose flour, butter, refined sugar, cream cheese and corn oil and other "secret ingredients," said Mignon de Leon, Benguet Tourism Council chief. ***Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza***

Baguio's 'enchanted' pine tree felled, finally

ALL that is left of the once majestic, and what others say, an "enchanted," 50-foot pine tree in the middle of Loakan Road in a Baguio City is a burnt stump.

City workers cut the tree on Nov. 5 because it was said to be a road hazard since it was already dead. But an Igorot elder performed a ritual that transferred what was believed to be the spirit living in it to a nearby pine tree.

Paulino Ulsem, a barangay captain of East Quirino Hill, sacrificed a white chicken at the foot of the enchanted tree, chanted incantations and later placed the chicken in a nearby 23-foot pine tree by the roadside to signify that the spirit also followed it.

Laurence Adube, chief of the city's barangay affairs office, said it took them at least seven hours to bring the tree to the ground. The pine tree was 15 meters tall and 1.5 meters in base diameter.

"Based on the tree's annual rings, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources declared the tree to be about two centuries old," he said. He said the tree had died two years ago.

Adube said rituals were performed to ensure that nothing unfavorable would happen to anyone involved in the tree cutting.

"(Out of) respect to the underground spirits rumored to be living in the tree, we offered one whole chicken, cooked rice, a bottle of gin, *tapuy* (rice wine) and some coins before the actual cutting," he said.

He said at least two employees of the city engineer's office did the cutting.

Utmost care

"The tree was cut with utmost care. We made sure that we would bring down the whole tree together," he said.

He said they divided the cutting into two parts using chainsaws. "Six meters of its upper part were cut first, the remaining part came next after another brief prayer," Adube said.

The tree cutting was witnessed by city officials and residents of Barangay Greenwater.

"The top was already decayed. The branches crumbled," Magdalena Lamnac, Greenwater barangay captain, said.

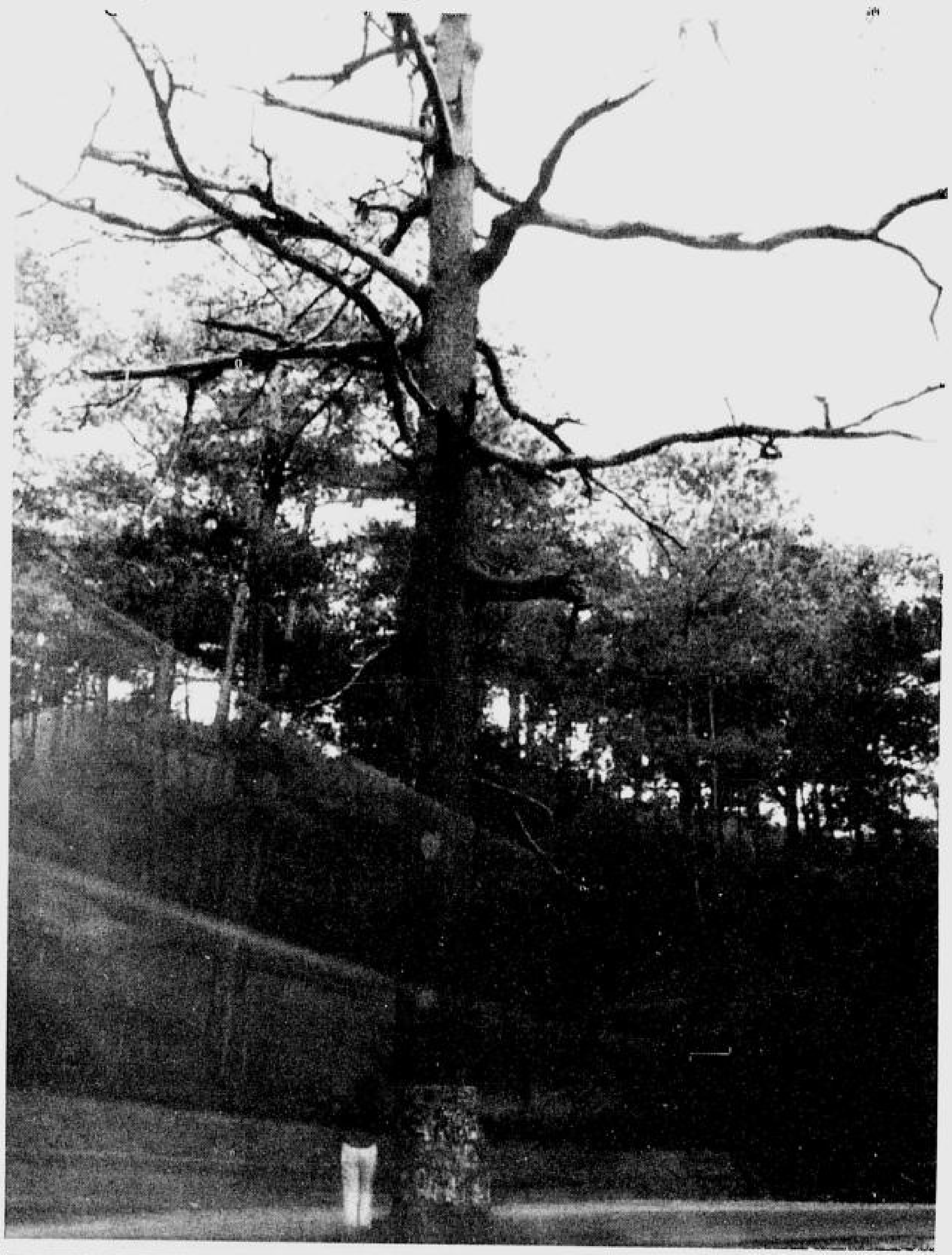
"I came to say goodbye to my friend. Goodbye, friend," said Encarnacion Angeles, 78, who was the first to settle in Greenwater and whose house was nearest to the felled tree.

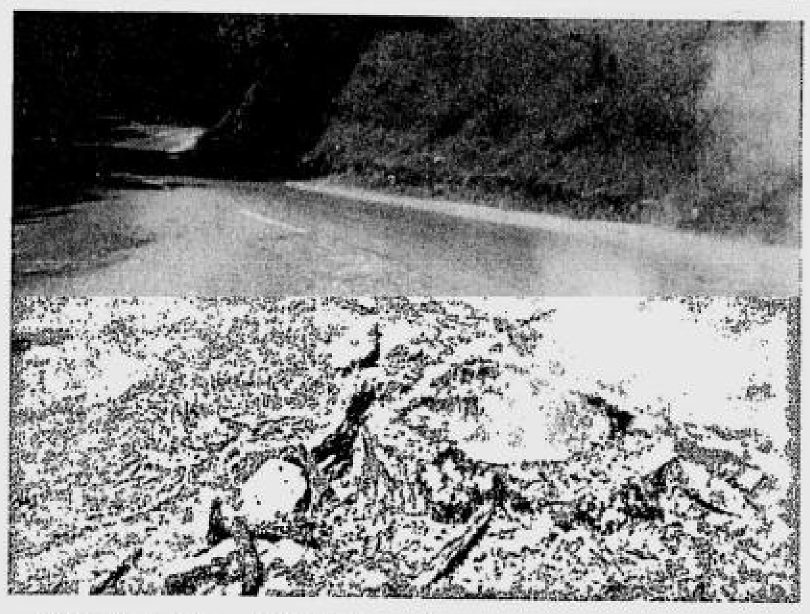
Angeles said the spirit in the tree protected what used to be a large pool under the road.

She said the ones who allowed the tree in the middle of Loakan Road recognized the sanctity of the tree.

"I've been here since 1956 back when the whole area was a forest. The tree was already there," Angeles said.

The large pond under the road was lined with moss that is why the residents later called the village "Greenwater."





THE "ENCHANTED" pine tree (above) before it was felled. All that was left of it is a burnt stump (photo at left). EV ESPIRITU

Camp John Hay officials later diverted the pond for the former American base's water use. Angeles, who used to be the secretary of the base's commanding generals, said nothing bad happened to the base officials.

She, however, said an ancestral land claimant, who wanted to get the pond area, got sick and never followed up his case. About 20 plastic water pipes servicing nearby residents are now connected to the spring.

'White lady'

Despite persistent stories from taxi drivers and residents about the "white lady of Loakan" seen near the tree, Angeles said she herself has still to see her.

"I believe in spirits but not in ghosts. I feel the spirit in the tree but not in the ghost. They are different things," Angeles said.

Lamnac insists that the tree is just a dead tree and a traffic hazard at that.

"There were too many accidents where the cars or buses bump into the tree. Maybe that's why it died," she said.

City officials counted 150 tree rings, which were rotten.

They said the tree is about 180 to 200 years old.

Angeles said the branches of the felled tree would be used in a bonfire for next month's *cañao* (Cordillera feast) for the city's "Balik-Baguio sa Pasko" program.

"(But) the main trunk was delivered to the city engineer's office for safekeeping and will later be used for asphalt cooking," he said.

Lamnac got a stump to use as a table but it cracked. ***Frank Cimatu and Jovelyn Reyes***

Benguet's . . .

(From page 17)

Highland Agriculture Resources Research and Development Consortium, said they have acquired 10 varieties of liliums and are propagating them through tissue culture.

"We have tested these varieties and right now establishing the protocol for their mass propagation," Tandang said.

Dr. Ben Ladilad, executive director of Regional Research Development Council, said the future for calla lilies is in the varieties of colors one can develop from them.

"If you only have the white calla lilies, your profit will not grow as much. There are many producers of white calla lilies and you are only flooding the market and your profit might decline," Ladilad said. "But if you have calla lilies in different colors, you will surely profit."

Ladilad said the advantage of calla lilies is their hardiness. "They are one of the easiest crops to manage. You only plant them in swampy grounds with minimum fertilizer," he said. ***Frank Cimatu***

Little-known village cries for war recognition

BY KIRA ESPINO
Ilocos Norte

THE PAGUDPUD municipal government in Ilocos Norte and some World War II veterans and their descendants are pushing for the historical recognition of an area in Barangay Caunayan in the town where a US submarine landed in 1944.

The landing of the submarine USS Stingray on Aug. 27, 1944 was believed to have played an important role in the liberation of Northern Luzon from the Japanese.

The Pagudpud council, in two resolutions passed last month, asked President Macapagal-Arroyo and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon for support for the recognition.

According to a material provided by the Stingray Friendship Foundation Inc., the Stingray transported at least six tons of supplies and armaments given to local guerrillas.

The foundation said the landing was a tactical offense that led to the liberation of Northern Luzon from the Japanese.

"The landing at Bimmanaaw, Caunayan (in) Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte happened two months earlier than the landing of Gen. Douglas MacArthur at Palo, Leyte. The armaments hastened the liberation of Northern L zon. The Japanese were at a killing rampage then. There were interesting details on how the mission was planned and how the obstacles were met," Leopoldo Bautista, chief executive officer of the foundation, said in an e-mail interview.

'Bolomen'

He said the foundation would publish the book "Bolomen" that documents the war exploits of guerrillas from Northern Luzon.

They would also put up a marker at the landing site and organize a reunion of surviving Stingray crewmembers and "Bolomen," who were directly involved in the landing and distribution of armaments.

Bautista said a research team of the foundation in Bangui and Pagudpud towns has gathered, validated and cross-checked the names of the "Bolomen."

"(The book) covers, to a lengthy extent, the effects of the armaments from the USS Stingray landing. Little is known or written about the war atrocities committed in the Ilocos region or the heroic deeds of the ordinary people during the war. We are actually 75 percent finished with the manuscript of the book," Bautista, a son of a Filipino guerrilla, said.

He said the lot on which the historical marker will be put up has been surveyed. It was donated by the family of Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, a native of Ilocos Norte and chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Southern Command.

Bautista said surviving crewmembers of the USS Stingray, family members, friends and media representatives in the US are attending the reunion.

He welcomed the resolutions passed by the Pagudpud council, saying these are "very timely," considering that their projects were in "full gear" and "almost at the implementing stage" during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

"With the impeachment of President Estrada and with the change of the Cabinet secretaries, the project suffered its major setback. These local government resolutions are the renewed endorsements of the project to the national level," he said.

In the resolution addressed to Ms Macapagal, the council asked the President, through the National Historical Institute, to include the Stingray landing site as a national historical site.

In the resolution addressed to Gordon, the council asked the secretary to include the landing site in the roster of landmarks of historical sites in the country.

"The heroic landing that rightfully displays the valiant acts and deeds of our forefathers should be given a rightful recognition in our history as a nation," the resolutions said.

The Ilocos Norte provincial board endorsed the resolutions in October, according to Salvacion Lagundino, municipal council secretary.

Milagros Gonzales, provincial tourism coordinator, said the presence of a historical marker would help Pagudpud's tourism industry since people would know the significance of the area.

Nida buried today; 2 suspects under custody

(From page A1)

"We don't have anything like that, there is no truth to that," Espina said in Filipino.

Speaking at the NBI command conference held in connection with the bureau's 65th anniversary today, Wycoco said "the police are just wrapping up the investigation."

He declined to elaborate, saying the bureau was a mere support unit to the PNP in the investigation of the case.

"I don't want to preempt what they're going to say," he said.

But the Gualberto-led Task Force Marsha, which was formed to look into the actress' murder, is just now looking into the calls that she made or received on her mobile phone.

In the first of daily briefings on the case, Espina said they had asked for Blanca's records from a mobile-phone firm. "At least we'll know whom she called up recently and in the past," he said.

He also said they were still trying to find corroboration for the statements of 22 witnesses questioned so far.

Espina said that "the majority" of the statements could not be corroborated," and that "some even border on hearsay."

He said a number of the statements were somewhat off, but that he did not think these were intended to mislead investigators.

"The investigation has become complex because of statements that do not jibe," Espina said.

Blanca's bloodied body was discovered 8 a.m. of Nov. 7 inside her car at the sixth-floor car park of the Atlanta Center in San Juan.

The actress was last seen alive around 5 p.m. of Nov. 6 as she was leaving the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board office at the building's 33rd floor.

Calls, e-mails

Espina said Blanca left her mobile phone with her girl Friday Elena de la Paz on the afternoon of Nov 6.

Thus, he said, investigators would have to check the logged calls she made at the MTRCB office.

Espina later told the INQUIRER that e-mail messages exchanged between Blanca and her US-based daughter Katherine Jones Torres would also be examined to determine if the actress had revealed any problem or dispute at home or with any of her associates.

He said investigators were preparing to get the sworn statement of Torres, who arrived in Manila from her base in Los Angeles at 10 p.m. Sunday.

Espina also said investigators were returning to the Atlanta Center to "carefully scrutinize the building" and determine "what happened (there) from the first minute until the last minute."

He said they would conduct a background check on the people who entered and left the building as early as two days before Blanca went missing and a day after her body was discovered.

Even the most probable route that the actress could have taken in going to the Casino Filipino in Parañaque City, where she was supposedly sighted on the night of Nov. 6, will be looked into, he said.

Espina, however, said the footage in the security tapes provided by the casino failed to establish that Blanca was indeed there on that night.

"(Blanca's presence at the casino) is not yet established at this point," he said. "I did not say that it is being negated. What I am saying is that it has to be corroborated with additional evidence."

'Anything is possible'

Espina admitted that the investigation was at a point where "anything is possible," although he said they were now zeroing in on a group of suspects.

He reiterated that all those questioned would be considered witnesses until testimony pointing to them as suspects was corroborated.

"We are trying to corroborate the statements with the tapes and other hard evidence that will be subjected to forensics" he said. "They should jibe so that we'll have a foothold on the evidence that we gathered."

Espina said what had been established so far was that more than one person attacked Blanca, and that personal grudge was the motive.

He said it could not yet be established if Blanca was killed in her car or if her body was merely dumped there.

But Espina said forensic experts of Task Force Marsha and the NBI were one in saying that the weapon used in the attack appeared to be a Swiss knife.

"The knife of a Swiss knife, like that of a Swiss knife," was how he described the probable weapon.

An autopsy has shown that Blanca's stab wounds were shallow, indicating that the knife used was short or that the killer was a woman.

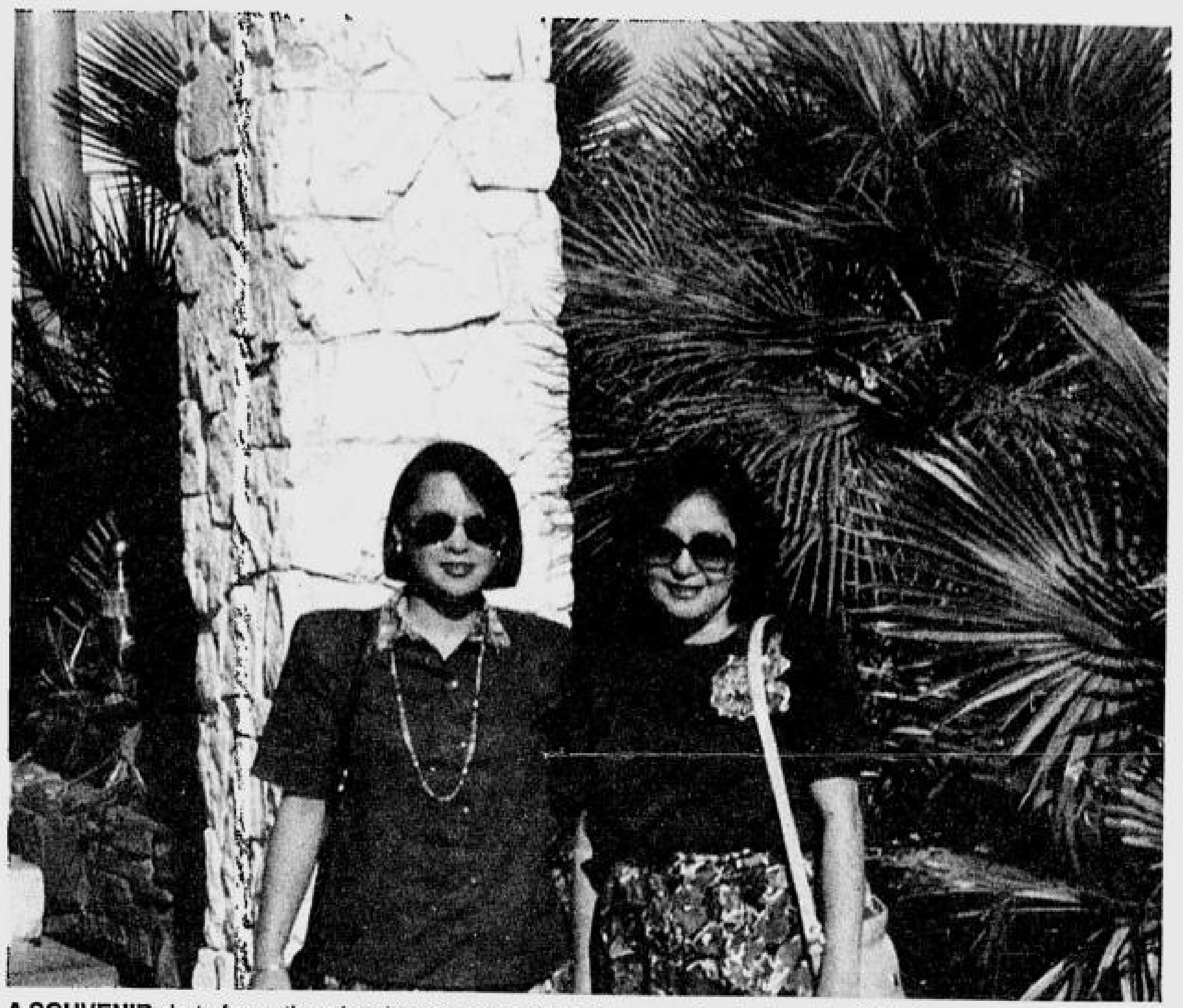
Espina said investigators were also examining a Jollibee hamburger wrapper and a cigarette pack, which were both retrieved near where Blanca's car was parked.

"We're looking into whether (the hamburger) was eaten by the victim or the (killers)," Espina said.

But he added that the digested food found by forensic doctors in Blanca's stomach appeared to have been rice.

The actress was also a semi-vegetarian and did not eat pork or beef.

The remains of the actress will be transferred today to the Christ the King Church in Green Meadows, Quezon City where a funeral Mass will be held. Interment follows immediately at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.



A SOUVENIR shot of a mother-daughter vacation, Nida Blanca and only daughter Katherine in Los Angeles, two years ago.

House honors Nida

By Juliet L. Javellana

A RESOLUTION has been filed in the House of Representatives honoring Nida Blanca for her achievements as an icon of Philippine movies and as a peacemaker.

House Resolution 287 filed yesterday by Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri cited "the deeds and good examples (that Blanca) demonstrated in her lifetime." It expressed the "gratitude of this august body and the entire Filipino people it represents for (Blanca's) great deeds and sacrifices for the cause of the arts and patriotism."

The 212-member chamber is expected to quickly adopt the resolution.

According to the resolution, "all Filipinos" should honor the slain actress, Dorothy Jones in real life, for her exemplary contributions to Philippine cinema and her extraordinary role in restoring peace and order during the Japanese occupation.

It said the government had yet to recognize Blanca's role as an informal government peace negotiator during the time of President Elpidio Quirino, and in 1954 when the administration of President Ramon Magsaysay conducted peace talks with the Huks led by Luis Taruc.

"The humility, bravery and camaraderie shown by Nida Blanca during talks with Huk leader Luis Taruc, which eventually turned into a close friendship (that endured throughout) the latter's incarceration, definitely helped stem the Huk rebellion, and for this the former's role as peacemaker should be acknowledged and recognized," the resolution said.

It also said that Blanca's 163 films and numerous TV shows in 50 years had provided inspiration to the people, and that she had been a role model for young actresses.

As well, the resolution urged police authorities to apprehend Blanca's killers, saying "her despicable death not only shocked the entertainment industry but likewise put fear anew into the populace amidst the growing menace of criminality."

Kidnapping spree forces major PNP revamp

(From page A1)

Police said they were closely trailing a kidnap-for-ransom gang suspected of being behind the abduction of 14-year-old Angela Dee Pineda, daughter of Dr. Vinzon Pineda and Delia Dee, the owners of the Pineda Derm Clinic chain.

Lina and Mendoza jointly announced the formation of a new anti-KFR task force for Luzon and Mindanao—a unit distinct from the National Anti-Crime Commission's Anti-KFR Task Force (Naktaf) headed by Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane.

New assignments

The new unit, which will focus on Luzon and Mindanao cases, is headed by Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group. Gualberto is heading the high-profile investigation into the brutal slay of popular actress Nida Blanca.

Two other ranking officials also involved in the Blanca investigation were reassigned. Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante was moved from his post as chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, and Chief Supt. George Aliño was replaced as chief of the Eastern Police District, which is investigating the Pineda kidnapping.

Director Edgardo Aglipay was reassigned to his old post as NCRPO chief—that is, head of all police operations for Metro Manila. Senior Supt. Rolando Sacramento, formerly deputy director for operations of the Aviation Security Group, replaced Aliño.

The PNP reshuffle, which takes effect today, also affected Chief Supt. Jose Lalisan, Naktaf deputy chief, who has been designated chief of the Directorate for Plans replacing Director Ricardo de Leon. De Leon was transferred to the Directorate for Operations, to replace Aglipay.

Galvante was reassigned to his previous post of deputy chief for operations, and Aliño was transferred to the Cordillera Autonomous Region.

Mendoza emphasized that the function of the new task force would not overlap with Naktaf's operations, as it will concentrate on Luzon and Mindanao, where most KFR incidents take place.

"We are not just dismantling KFR gangs, but likewise their networks. We aim to reduce their crimes and the neutralization of the networks of these groups," Mendoza said.

Other police officials in the reshuffle included Director Efren Q. Fernandez, Directorate for Personnel and Records Management, who replaced Chief Supt. Reynor Gonzales as director of the Narcotics Group. Gonzales' new assignment was not announced. Fernandez will be replaced by Chief Supt. Virtus Gil, director of the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Reported cases

Managuelod said in a television interview that the number of kidnapping had in fact increased this year, from the 38 kidnappings recorded last year.

But he said the incidence of actual kidnappings probably rose by only 3 percent, noting that the higher number of reported cases indicated more people were now willing to report such kidnappings to the police.

"The perception of the people is improving because more people are reporting to the police compared to last year," Managuelod said. In the past, many victims' families refused to come forward due to suspicions that rogue police or military men were involved in the abductions.

He said 62 percent of the abductions this year had already been solved with the kidnappers arrested, and added that the police expected to make progress in the other cases.

He said the police were also "quite alarmed" by the 18 kidnapping incidents involving foreigners this year and have met with the diplomatic corps to discuss the problem.

"The police and the consular corps are coming out with some strategies to counter (kidnapping) attempts (especially) involving members of the family," Managuelod said without elaborating.

Kidnappings for ransom have sharply increased this year, frightening local and foreign investors, deterring tourists and embarrassing the President.

Last week, the wife of a senior French diplomat and her driver were abducted by heavily armed men in military uniform as they headed to a school in Parañaque City to pick up her child. They were later released unharmed, with police saying it could have been a case of mistaken identity.

Cabinet meeting

Upon arriving from Indonesia, Ms Macapagal instructed Perez, who chairs the National Anti-Crime Commission, to explain the three latest kidnap incidents before the Cabinet meeting scheduled today.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President wanted the NACC to "come up with measures to put an end to the scourge" of kidnapping.

The kidnapping issue was originally not included in the agenda for today's Cabinet meeting. The NACC, which is composed of government officials and private citizens, replaced the controversial Presidential Anti-Crime Commission of the Estrada administration.

It has jurisdiction over Ebdane's Naktaf. Last month, the President announced that Ebdane would succeed Mendoza as national police chief.

Pineda case

A Naktaf official said authorities have pinpointed a group possibly behind the abduction of Pineda. The 14-year-old was on board the family Starex van on her way to the Tabernacle of Faith Christian Academy in San Juan with three step-siblings (not two, as earlier reported) when a vehicle with four armed men blocked their way and abducted her.

The other children had initially refused to let her go, but were forced to do so by the men described by witnesses as carrying "long firearms."

The official said police are closely trailing a kidnap-for-ransom group whose modus operandi fitted the way Pineda was taken in Mandaluyong City the other day.

Members of this particular group, the source said, wear police uniforms in their operations.

"We know a KFR group which operates that way but this is still subject for verification," he said.

But he declined to reveal other details about police pursuit operations, saying revealing more information may endanger the victim's life.

It was learned that the family of the victim continued to decline cooperating with the police.

In Mandaluyong City, Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. appealed to those who witnessed Monday's abduction to help lawmen in their investigation after learning that the victim's family refused to cooperate with police investigators.

Abalos said any information that could shed light to the incident would be of great help. He added that ample protection and support would be given to any informant who could provide substantial information.

"It is truly regrettable that a crime like kidnapping could happen," Abalos said.

He stressed that all efforts would be exerted by the police and the city government to ensure the victim's safety.

The family driver said he first thought that the armed men in uniforms were stopping them for a traffic violation.

Special courts

In a letter to Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption and the Equal Justice for All Movement (E-Just) said that existing special courts could not deal with kidnapping thoroughly because they are overburdened with other heinous crime cases, such as murder, arson, rape and robbery with homicide.

The Revised Penal Code punishes kidnapping for ransom and kidnapping with serious illegal detention with the maximum penalty.

"With independent courts strictly hearing kidnapping cases, kidnappers would know that the government means business in weeding out this type of crime," VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez told the INQUIRER.

The VACC chief also suggested that Naktaf and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology create special detention cells for kidnapping suspects.

"We would (thus) avoid incidences wherein kidnapping suspects are 'borrowed' by intelligence authorities who want to employ their expertise in surveillance, thus delaying their trials," Jimenez said.

VACC and E-Just also urged the high tribunal to provide for the expeditious hearing of KFR and KSID cases pending in various special courts and "to strictly enforce the mandated daily trial required for heinous crime cases, leaving no room for convenient postponements."

The two Manila-based groups also urged the high court to publish the status of KFR and KSID cases pending in the various special courts.

Jimenez and E-Just chair Leonard de Vera said they believe their suggestions could help the government "minimize, if not eradicate" kidnapping.

Amcham alarm

The American Chamber of Commerce, one of the country's oldest foreign business associations, expressed alarm over the continuing breakdown in law and order in the country, particularly the upsurge in kidnappings.

Terry Emrick, Amcham president and Ford Motor Co. Philippines chief, said the chamber had already forwarded its views on personal security and other economic problems to the President, with kidnapping for ransom tagged as the most serious issue facing its members. He expects other foreign chambers to join Amcham in its clamor for the government to address the worsening situation.

"A major concern for us is the security issue. The kidnappings are very bad and it does not help the reputation of the country," Emrick said.

While law and order has been a perennial problem, Emrick said the kidnap-for-ransom situation has worsened this year and has become a more pressing problem for the government.

In a position paper submitted to Ms Macapagal in July, the chamber said that law and order remains a top concern of all foreign chambers. "It is important that the new administration addresses this problem fast and effectively. Otherwise, the Philippines will continue to suffer the consequences of a kidnapped economy."

Asked on whether he thinks the government was doing enough to solve the problem of kidnappings, Emrick said: "I don't know."

But Emrick admitted that his group had no specific suggestions regarding the handling of the kidnapping problem. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Jerome Aning, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Agence France Presse*

Joyless in season of joy

(From page A1)

merry.

They don't have much to look forward to: Only half of their 13th month pay; no annual Christmas party, cash gifts, groceries and other perks like monetized-performance incentives usually given during the season of cheer.

Instead, government employees are being encouraged to nourish their souls with prayer and fasting.

Is the Macapagal administration sacrificing the holiday expectations of its workers in its resolve to contain the budget deficit to P145 billion? A mean feat, indeed, considering that in the first nine months, the budget gap already stood at P122 billion.

"Maybe this would help them reach their target but at the expense of government employees," said an irate female employee at the Department of Finance (DOF).

Camacho to the rescue?

A source at the department said that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho is hatching a revenue enhancement plan to win back all or part of the projected P16 billion revenue shortfall from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

Camacho has to succeed or the joys of the season would elude government workers

Government sources are blaming the lousy performance of agencies like the BIR and the BOC for their less-than-merry Christmas.

These two agencies are seen to incur a revenue shortfall of P16 billion for the year and this is why the budget department is looking for more items to chop off from the budget list.

If the P16-billion revenue is not delivered or if spending is not curtailed by as much, the budget deficit would soar to P161 billion, a situation that would further erode the confidence in the Macapagal administration.

Worst crisis

Self-restraint has become critical as the Philippines is facing its worst economic crisis in the post-World War II era, Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul T. Concepcion said yesterday during a press conference at the boardroom of the Concepcion Building in Makati.

He said Filipinos would feel the pinch of the crisis during the holidays when retail sales are expected to drop substantially from year-ago levels. He said sales of the retail industry have already fallen by as much as 20 percent through October this year.

Concepcion said: "Unless all sectors like government, business, civil society, labor, nongovernment organizations, and media pull their act together, we will have a herculean task of turning the economy around vis-a-vis our Asean neighbors."

Relying on crumbs

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, however, denied that the government is planning a new austerity program. "If a government agency can afford to throw a party or give cash gifts, then they can do so. We are not stopping them," said the budget chief.

But except for self-sustaining bodies like the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Philippine National Oil Co., among others, all other departments and institutions rely on the crumbs that the budget department can give them.

"According to the DBM, only our salaries and the balance of our 13th month pay would be released," said a ranking finance official. Government workers had received half of their 13th month between May to July. Bonuses in excess of P30,000 would be taxed.

Very soon, the DOF would impose an internal austerity measure to help bring down its operating expenses.

The finance department is said to owe Manila Electric Co. "millions of pesos" and one of the solutions to save on overhead cost is to shorten the working days but lengthen the working hours.

A four-day workweek of 10 hours daily would be imposed at the DOF soon, said a source. Employees are also required to put out the air-conditioning units during rainy and windy days and late afternoons.

Concepcion said he was pushing for a one-year moratorium on adversarial politics and negativism as a means to address the "freewheeling democracy and media" which have kept the Philippines from attaining its economic potential.

Concepcion said that while some sectors criticized his views, including this paper, he has also received support from other sectors that share his view that the Philippines need to mitigate its democratic aspirations and concentrate on economic development.

The government, together with Congress, labor and business leaders and nongovernment organizations (NGO), will draw up a two-year action plan during the National Economic Summit scheduled on Dec. 10. The summit aims to shield the country from the harsh impact of a global economic slowdown. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan*

'Stakes at least $1.2 billion a year'

(From page A1)

"people close to the First Couple" had "wanted the business for themselves" and that he was subjected to a "shakedown" and "extortion."

But Marcelo's projection raised more questions than answers. Smart and Globe, the two carriers that were to interconnect through the PCCI, have combined annual revenues that are smaller than Marcelo's projected annual sales. In the first half of 2001, Smart generated sales of P10.5 billion, and Globe revenues of P15.45 billion.

PCCI's authorized capital stock is only P1 million.

PCCI won a congressional franchise to establish and maintain "wire and/or wireless telecommunications systems" throughout the country, but the franchise was vetoed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The controversy revolves around an alleged attempt to get the President to "recall" her veto.

Fabricated charges

When sought for comment, Patricia Bunye, spokesperson for First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, said it was actually Marcelo who was doing the shakedown, pressuring the First Couple through his accusations.

"Isn't he the one shaking down the First Couple? He was probably thinking that by threatening Mr. Arroyo with fabricated charges, he would get what he wants and that is the recall of the veto," Bunye said.

The other day, Bunye observed that Marcelo had come out "very late in the day" and described his claims of a shakedown as a mere fabrication.

She said Arroyo might have been the victim of name-droppers who used his name before Marcelo.

Bunye said Arroyo was prepared to answer whatever allegations Marcelo would make.

"It is premature yet to react fully because he has not appeared publicly," Bunye said. "But he knows all too well that Mr. Arroyo is not involved in this telecommunications issue."

Marcelo said he was scheduled to appear on Nov. 22 before the Senate committee on public accountability, more familiarly known as the blue ribbon committee, which is investigating the telecommunications franchise controversy.

"What I would say are all documented," Marcelo said.

Silence broken

Marcelo said he decided to break his silence because he learned that administration senators were set to move to terminate the blue ribbon committee hearings.

"But that's not fair. Everybody including me must be given the chance to speak up and tell (it as) it is," Marcelo said.

He said he understood the early closure of the Senate hearings was to be premised on the sworn statement by mystery woman Maria Luz "Malou" Nuñez denying knowledge of the alleged P40-million bribery meant to influence Ms Macapagal into recalling her veto.

The President never did.

Marcelo said PCCI would have earned $1.2 billion a year from interconnection fees by telecommunications companies.

"What we wanted with PCCI was a clearinghouse where you can be connected to a number you are dialing regardless of the carrier you are using. It has been my concept since 1995," he said.

Marcelo said PCCI would have handled 20 percent of the telecommunications traffic. The bulk of this traffic, or about 60 percent, is being managed by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., according to Marcelo.

"PLDT would have been a major loser in this supposed new setup," Marcelo said.

In the first half of the year, PLDT generated sales of P36.72 billion.

‘Oh no, not again’

NEW YORK—Milena Owens was putting up Thanksgiving decorations on her window when she saw the American Airlines plane flying far too low.

“I heard the explosion and I looked out the window and saw the flames and the smoke and I just thought, ‘Oh no, not again.’”

Owens lives two blocks from the crash site.

Many residents in the neighborhood, 24 km from the smoking remains of the World Trade Center and home to many city firefighters, had braced for the worst since the Sept. 11 attack.

Gus Cholakis, 38, said he lost 13 friends in the attacks at the trade center, and hoped he didn't lose any more.

“This neighborhood has been through enough.”

Cholakis lives a hundred meters from where a huge chunk of debris fell.

“The whole house shook,” said Cholakis.

“I looked out the window, the first thing I saw was a huge fireball right outside,” he said.

Residents were jolted from their beds when the jet crashed. They ran outside with fire extinguishers and garden hoses, trying to fight fires left by debris from the crash.

Smoke rose from the residential neighborhood in the shadow of air traffic from nearby John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Police and fire crews rushed to the scene.

Two local schools—empty of students for the Veterans Day holiday—were turned into triage centers to prepare for the injured.

One piece of debris set aflame a Texaco gas station a few blocks from John Maroney's home. He thought it was the jet engine.

“We were all out there with fire extinguishers and hoses but we couldn't do much,” Maroney said.

An unidentified witness told a local television station that residents ran to the burning buildings to try to help.

It was unclear how many buildings were on fire—one witness said six or seven might have been burning.

“We have several conflicting reports of what happened,” Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said, before he went aboard a helicopter to view the scene.

“Obviously, it did a lot of damage. We don't know the full extent of it,” Giuliani said.

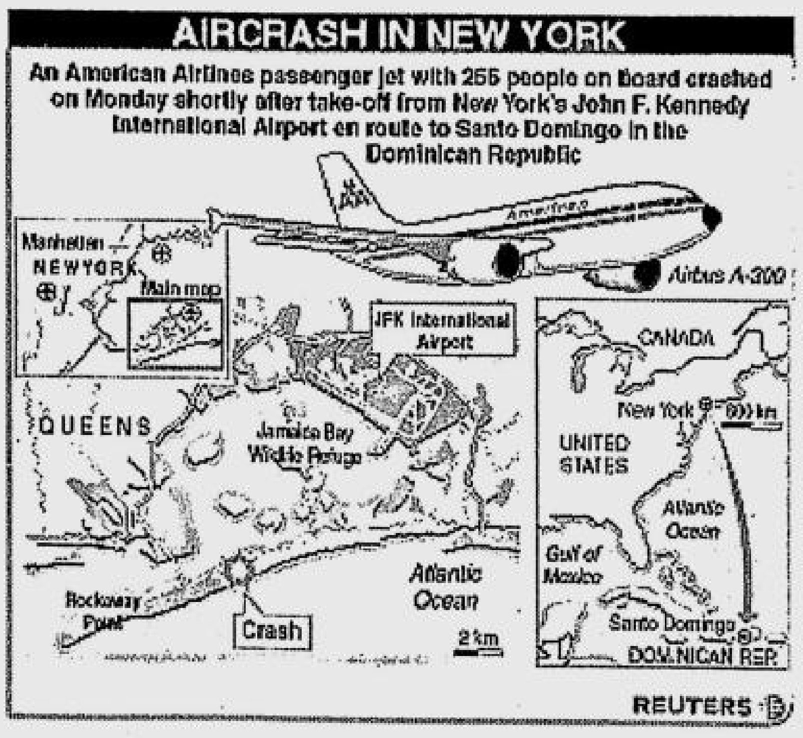
“Everyone should remain calm,” he said. “Right now the Fire Department and Police Department are engaged in trying to rescue any survivors.”

One terrified resident told CNN she was baking when she saw the jet crash behind her house.

“(There) was a huge, loud sound,” she said. “And then (the plane) blew up into a huge fireball and I jumped out the second floor of my house. It was horrible. I ran right across the street first because we were in shock, then we had to evacuate. It's unbelievable, it's horrible.”

“I went over the deck in front of my house because the back was so hot,” said the woman, who was not identified.

Asked if she was injured, she said: “I can't really think about that right now.” *AP*


AIRCRASH IN NEW YORK
An American Airlines passenger jet with 255 people on board crashed on Monday shortly after take-off from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport en route to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic
American
Airbus A-300
Manhattan
NEW YORK
Main map
JFK International Airport
QUEENS
Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Rockaway Point
Crash
Atlantic Ocean
2 km
CANADA
New York
800 km
UNITED STATES
Atlantic Ocean
Gulf of Mexico
Santo Domingo
DOMINICAN REP.
REUTERS

Probers treat crash as accident

(From page A1)

parents' laps—and nine crewmembers. Authorities said none of them survived.

Police did not say how many people on the ground might have died but said six to nine people in the neighborhood were missing.

As night fell, several hundred people working under the glare of klieg lights formed bucket brigades and separated debris into gruesome piles of luggage, plane parts and human remains.

Police said the bodies were being recovered “relatively intact” and included that of a man clutching a baby.

The American Airlines Airbus A300 had two CF6-80C2 engines made by General Electric.

In March, the Federal Aviation Administration directed airlines to inspect such engines for possible cracks in turbine rotor discs. The cracks could cause the discs to fly apart and prompt engine failure, the FAA said.

On Oct. 5, the FAA issued a safety notice saying there was a “need for mandatory inspections” of the CF6-80C2 engine because “an unsafe condition had been identified.”

It gave the public 60 days, until Dec. 4, to comment before ordering more extensive and more frequent inspections.

The CF6-80C2 engine is used in more than 1,000 aircraft worldwide, including the US presidential jet, Air Force One. GE had built 2,954 of these engines—first introduced in 1984—and they are among the best selling for wide-bodied aircraft.

There have been at least two CF6-80C2 engine failures in the past three years, none of which led to an accident, that prompted the government to require a tighter inspection program for cracking and wear.

“We have worked aggressively with the FAA on the inspections,” said Rick Kennedy, a spokesperson for GE's aircraft engine unit.

GE said it believed the engine was “phenomenally reliable.”

Experts said the A300 engines were designed to break away from the plane if there was dangerous vibration or another major problem that might endanger the airworthiness of the aircraft.

NO SURVIVORS were found among the 255 passengers and nine crew members. GETTY IMAGES

Just one engine

The plane, in many instances, can be flown with one engine, experts said.

The No. 2, or right, engine on the American aircraft that crashed had nearly reached the time for an overhaul, an American Airlines spokesperson said. The left engine that apparently failed had been overhauled recently.

Investigators got extensive descriptions from eyewitnesses, including a commercial pilot on the ground, who reported that one of the plane's engines caught fire during takeoff and eventually broke from the wing.

Witnesses said the plane was having difficulty climbing and was banking to the left.

One smoking engine was found intact on a parking lot at a Texaco gas station two blocks from the crash site. It had missed the gas pumps by no more than 1.8 meters. Neighbors ran to the scene with garden hoses to help put out the fire.

A part of the second engine was found another block away, in Kevin McKeon's back yard after it crashed through his kitchen.

“The next thing we knew, the walls were blowing off,” said McKeon, who was knocked into the yard by the impact, along with his daughter.

The plane was given a routine maintenance check Sunday night, and investigators were checking who had access to the plane during those hours.

Accident

Mindful of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings of four airliners, investigators looking at Monday's crash said the voice cockpit recorder, debris patterns and eyewitness reports all pointed toward an accident, not terrorism.

“All indications are that it's an accident,” National Transportation Safety Board Chair Marion Blakey said.

Top administration officials were quick to stress that an initial review of intelligence data had found no evidence that terrorism was involved in the crash, and that the NTSB, which investigates transportation accidents, was in charge.

If there was an explosion on the plane—and many witnesses heard one—it was probably caused by a mechanical failure, investigators said.

Nonetheless, they scoured records of who had access recently to the plane.

The CIA examined the flight manifest to determine whether any suspected terrorists were on it and the National Security Agency was reviewing intelligence gathered by electronic eavesdropping to see whether there were any indications of a plot, a US intelligence official said.

Authorities said all bags loaded aboard the aircraft matched the passenger manifest.

Aviation authorities said the plane took off at 9:14 a.m. (10:14 p.m. in Manila), 74 minutes late because of security checks put in place after the Sept. 11 attacks. It left New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport en route to the Dominican Republic.

Four minutes after takeoff, air traffic controllers lost radar and radio contact with the aircraft.

Nothing unusual

Investigators quickly recovered the plane's flight data recorder, which would be analyzed in Washington. But authorities said there had been no unusual communication between air controllers and the cockpit before the crash.

During the four hijackings on Sept. 11 there were some cockpit recordings that clearly indicated extraordinary trouble.

At a candlelight vigil Monday night in Manhattan's Washington Heights, which is heavily populated with people from the Dominican Republic, Gov. George Pataki and Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg offered words of encouragement.

“We are New Yorkers. We are a strong people, a free people, a people committed to each other,” Pataki said. “However long the sorrow might continue, we will prevail.”

Bloomberg said: “All one can say to those left behind is: You have memories, you have children, you have parents that can remember those we lost.” *Reports from AP, Reuters, AFP*

Sept. 11 attack . . .

(From page A1)

Domingo's Las Americas International Airport indicated that the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 had taken a toll ever closer to home.

“Today is worse than the 11th,” said Leonidas Araujo Quesada, the manager of an airport cafe.

“On the 11th, there were people crying, but it was for everybody. Today it is for Dominicans.”

About half a million Dominicans live in New York, one of its largest immigrant groups, according to consular officials.

The American Airlines jet crashed moments after takeoff in a residential neighborhood 8 kilometers from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. It was on its way to Santo Domingo.

Most passengers were Dominican, officials said.

President Hipolito Mejia declared three days of national mourning.

Dozens of relatives came to Santo Domingo's airport for the official passenger list. As the victims became known, shrieks echoed as men collapsed in tears and women sobbed uncontrollably.

Not the child

"Not the child, please not the child!" sobbed Germania Brito, who was at the airport to meet her sister Mariana Flores and husband John with their 2-year-old son, Isaias.

"Oh my God!" screamed Miriam Fajardo, when it was confirmed that her sister, Norma Lilian Baloi, and three nephews were aboard the flight.

"I hadn't seen them in eight years. Now they're gone."

While many assumed the worst, Eduardo Fresola was told his brother, Jose Antonio Nicolas Fresola, had missed the flight because their 7-year-old sister got lost in the airport on her way back from the bathroom.

"I can't believe it! He wasn't on the plane!" exclaimed Fresola. "He's alive. He's safe."

Relatives of some victims were ushered behind a plastic barrier where psychologists were made available for counseling.

Others were left without an answer.

"What we want is the list of those who got on the plane, and they don't have it," said Saide Lara who was looking for her aunt, Ivelisse Goris.

"They told us that we had to wait."

Tearful relatives took comfort in hugging one another as they wept.

"I woke up early just to greet them," said Melida Reinoso, who was expecting her husband and son.

"Why did this happen?" *AP*

Lacson links top cops to ‘jueteng payola’

(From page A1)

as of press time.

Lacson said the jueteng lords had "succeeded (in) suck(ing) money from the majority who are the poor.

He added that "by her utter helplessness," President Macapagal-Arroyo "has chosen to help these suckers even more."

Lacson listed the alleged daily revenues of gambling lords in the districts as well as the protection money supposedly being given to top regional and provincial PNP officials.

But the senator made "an exception" of National Capital Region Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante, saying "there is no report that he takes money from jueteng operations and financiers."

Lacson said Superintendents Melito Mabilin, Cris Garcia and Totoy Montes were "collectors who front for (Galvante)" in collecting from jueteng lords.

The senator also said Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, was on the take to the tune of P1.8 million.

"Of the same mold" as Gualberto is PNP Intelligence Group Director Roberto Delfin, with Ely Fontanilla and Jess Orsula as collectors, Lacson said.

Gualberto issued a blanket denial over ABS-CBN last night. "I have received nothing. I'm very clean on that issue," he said in Filipino.

The INQUIRER called Gualberto on his mobile phone around 8 last night, but his aide said he was in a case conference of Task Force Marsha and could not be disturbed.

Task Force Jericho

Lacson urged Interior Secretary Joey Lina to investigate his department's Task Force Jericho, whose officers were allegedly receiving jueteng money from gambling lords in Central Luzon, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Southern Tagalog and Bicol.

He said task force members who were on the take were Senior Supt. Orlando Mabutas Sr., a Senior Superintendent Mascarinas and Senior Insp. George Bustos.

"The nation has now every reason to be displeased—not at the senators but at the President herself," he said. "She has been helpless in the last eight months before the jueteng lords."

Lacson noted that Luis "Chavit" Singson, former Ilocos Sur governor and now presidential consultant on anti-illegal gambling, had earlier told PNP officials that "the only way to reduce jueteng is for cops to reject bribe money from the operators." But it is Singson and Wycoco who are the "heavy takers of jueteng money," Lacson said.

The senator named Singson's brother, Jose "Bonito" Singson, as the one in charge of jueteng operations in Ilocos Norte.

He said jueteng was "back with a vengeance" in that province, with operations yielding P2 million in gross revenue daily.

He identified the supposed financiers as Edmund Aquino, Richard Cua and Danny Lao for the first, second and third districts.

Lacson said that in Singson's home province of Ilocos Sur, jueteng operations had been taken over wholly by his son, Ronald, who supposedly raked in "P2-3 million daily."

In La Union, where the daily gross revenue was allegedly P3 million, Lacson named the financiers as Danny Abasilla and Bong Artajos for the first and second districts. He said one Romy Lajara was handling operations.

Pangasinan jueteng operations yield a daily gross of "P5-6 million," according to Lacson.

He named the "financiers and operators" as Aber Chanchingco, District I; Bong Cayabyab, II; Roland Villegas, III; Luding Boongaling, IV; Efren de la Cruz, V; and Boy Bata, VI.

Lacson alleged that from these Ilocos provinces PNP regional director Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao was receiving P2 million a month, and the provincial directors, "from P300,000 to a high of P1 million."

He cited PNP Senior Supt. Boogie Mendoza as Pangasinan provincial director.

Cagayan Valley

In Cagayan Valley, Lacson said, PNP regional director Chief Supt. Dodong Resos was receiving P1.3 million a month in jueteng payola.

He enumerated the following alleged daily revenues and financiers in the region:

- Cagayan—P300,000; Danny Soriano, whom he identified as the brother of Senior Supt. Jeff Soriano.
- Isabela—P4 million; Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.
- Nueva Vizcaya—P800,000; Boy Tuzon.
- Quirino, P300,000; Luding Boongaling.

Lacson said Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, PNP director of Central Luzon, was receiving P3 million a month from jueteng lords.

"The joke in Camp Crame is that he already advanced his take up to December," Lacson said of Berroya, his archenemy.

For Bataan, Lacson said the daily gross from jueteng operations was P2 million, and was being financed by Bong Pineda and managed by his brother Ruben.

Pampanga

In the President's home province of Pampanga, the daily gross is a whopping P6 million, according to Lacson.

He outlined the jueteng operations in the province thus:

- Lubao and Angeles City—P2 million daily gross; financed by Bong Pineda.
- San Fernando—P1.5 million; Melchor Calauag.
- Angeles City and Arayat—P1 million; Paris Tolentino.
- Apalit—Otto Balboa.
- San Fernando, Mabalacat and Mexico—P1 million; Mario Garcia.
- Macabebe—a certain "ex-Mayor Tetangco."
- Fourth district of Pampanga—Mayor Corazon Lacap, "wife of Department of Health Undersecretary Epifanio Lacap."

"Pampanga is the home province of the President. Everything is different there, including the jueteng operations," Lacson said.

In Tarlac, Lacson named a certain engineer Constantino Palad as financier, with a daily gross of P2-2.3 million. For Tarlac City alone, he said, the daily gross was P400,000-P500,000, with Bebot Roxas as financier and operator.

For Zambales, Lacson said the son of Gov. Vic Magsaysay was the alleged financier of jueteng operations, with Peping Bedan as operator. He said the daily gross was P1.5-2 million.

In Olongapo City, the daily gross is at P600,000-P800,000, with Aging Lalisan as financier and Totoy Lisan as operator, he said.

Nueva Ecija jueteng operations allegedly pegged a daily gross of P5 million with Luding Boongaling as financier and Elan Elegano, operator.

In Bulacan, which has an alleged daily gross of P6 million, Lacson identified Mayor Boy Viceo and RJ Banzon (P6 million daily gross) as financier and operator for Meycauayan; a certain Somera for Sta. Maria and San Jose towns; and Oca Morales, also for Sta. Maria.

Southern Tagalog

Lacson said PNP Region 4 director Chief Supt. Dominador Reyes had a monthly take of P4 million from jueteng lords.

He listed the supposed daily gross revenues and financiers in Region 4 provinces thus:

- Batangas—P5 million; Sto. Tomas Mayor Armand Sanchez, with manager Atong Adriano.
- Cavite—P3 million; Bong Pineda and brother Ruben; Gani Cupcupin of Malabon-Navotas; Alias Ebeng of Laguna; Joe Camat for Naic; Alias Beto for Alfonso; and Oying Bida for Amadeo.
- Laguna—P3 million; for San Pablo City, Bong Pineda, Arthur Reyes, Romy Aquino and Totoy Haruta; for Calamba, George Fajardo, Rolly Fajardo and Dading Lajara. Also Elmer Nepomuceno and Romy Bijasa.
- Quezon—P5 million; Charing Magbuhos.
- Rizal—P3 million; Bong Pineda, Tony Santos and Eddie Texas.
- Mindoro Oriental—P600,000-700,000; Cesar Reyes.
- Mindoro Occidental—P600,000-700,000; Jun Dimacuja and Arnulfo Malacanan.

Bicol

Lacson accused Region 5 director Chief Supt. Enrique Galang of receiving P4 million a month from jueteng lords.

For Albay, he identified David Ebralino as financier and operator, with an alleged daily gross of P5 million.

He also dragged in the name of Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte, as the one behind the province's P2.5-3-million daily jueteng operations, with Tony Ong and Art Katigbak as financiers and operators.

In Camarines Norte, jueteng is being run by Ong and Katigbak with a daily revenue of P1.7-2 million, he said.

In Sorsogon, the daily gross is allegedly P800,000 to P1 million, with Edilberto Caro as financier and operator. For Bulan town alone, he said, the financier was Tabio Caponpon, and Boy Guan, operator.

Metro Manila

For the National Capital Region, Lacson enumerated jueteng operations and the daily revenues thus:

- Manila—Eric Ang of Binondo, P650,000 to P700,000; Joe Lazaro of Meycauyan, P700,000-800,000; Milo Samson of Blumentritt, P800,000-900,000; Tony Santos of Marikina, P450,000-500,000; and Edilberto Caro, P550,000-650,000.
- Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela—Augusto Lisan of Navotas, P400,000; RJ Banzon of Marikina, P740,000; Boy Aquino of Valenzuela, P120,000; and Tony Santos, P400,000.
- Quezon City—Wilfredo Francisco Apricano, P750,000; Edilberto Caro, P850,000; Mayor Boy Vicco, P350,000; Tony Santos, P480,000.
- Southern Metro Manila—Toto Lacson, P925,000 to P1 million; Edilberto Caro, P530,000; Ruben Padilla, P400,000; and Teddy Tamayo, P130,000.
- Eastern Metro Manila—Joel Guevarra of Marikina City, P250,000; Cris de la Paz of Marikina City, P450,000; and Edilberto Caro, P250,000.

Kabul falls; Taliban gone

(From page A1)

But alliance officials said the unexpected Taliban evacuation made it necessary for their troops to enter the city to maintain public order.

As the sun rose over the Hindu Kush mountains, Kabul residents shouted out congratulations, honked car horns and rang bells on their bicycles. Men shaved off beards—mandated by the Taliban—and listened to music—banned by the Islamic militia.

There were also signs that the Taliban were abandoning other urban centers, possibly to withdraw into the remote southern mountains to wage guerrilla war.

In Kandahar, the southern Taliban stronghold and birthplace of the Sunni movement, a resident contacted by telephone said many Taliban figures appeared to have left the city, too, except for uniformed militia police.

Along the Pakistani border at Chaman, a Taliban official, Mullah Najibullah, said about 200 former guerrillas had mutinied against the Taliban in Kandahar, but the report could not be confirmed.

Taliban guards on Tuesday abandoned the Torkham border station along the Pakistani frontier. A group of local Afghan elders was trying to sort out who would man the station, near the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

Sources contacted by telephone in Jalalabad said it appeared the Taliban was preparing to abandon that northeastern city too.

In Kabul, Northern Alliance soldiers armed with Kalashnikovs and rocket launchers roamed the city in taxis, trucks and cars, seeking out Arabs, Pakistanis, Chechens and others who had come to Afghanistan to fight with the Taliban.

Five Pakistanis were killed in a shootout early Tuesday. The bodies of two dead Arabs also lay sprawled on the street near a UN guesthouse. Close to the bodies were rocket launchers and a rifle.

Alliance soldiers stood guard outside the offices of some international aid organizations. Some, however, appeared to have been looted.

"Some illegal people went through and took everything from the offices," said Ghulam Ali, an elderly resident.

Int'l concern

Mindful of international concern over their behavior, the Northern Alliance was rushing in 3,000 especially trained security troops to maintain order.

The alliance's interior minister, Yunis Qanoni, said the main body of opposition forces would stay out of the city. He described those who entered Kabul early Tuesday as "renegades."

Journalists, however, later witnessed up to 1,000 opposition soldiers, policemen and national guards pouring into the city after a key checkpoint was opened.

Opposition Defense Minister Mohammad Fahim and Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Abdullah drove into the city at noon. They were accompanied by the special security troops in cars festooned with pictures of their late commander Ahmed Shah Massood, who was killed in September in a suicide bombing.

Qanoni said there were no plans for the deposed president, Burhanuddin Rabbani, to return to Kabul immediately.

Kabul's one million people are wary of the alliance because of the bloody infighting that marked the four years of rule by Rabbani and his coalition.

The turmoil paved the way for the southern-based Taliban to capture Kabul in 1996, a move that many residents had hailed as a step toward stability. The Taliban's harsh enforcement of strict Islamic rules later alienated many urban dwellers.

8 hostages

As the Taliban retreated, they took eight foreign aid workers, including two Americans, accused of spreading Christianity in Muslim Afghanistan, witnesses told the Associated Press.

"I saw them with my own eyes. They put them in the truck and then left at midnight. They said they are going to Kandahar," said Ajmal Mir, a guard at the abandoned detention center in the heart of the city where the eight had been held.

From the rooftop of the Intercontinental Hotel on a hill overlooking Kabul, columns of Taliban vehicles could be seen heading south beginning Monday night. The exodus continued after sunrise.

Great news

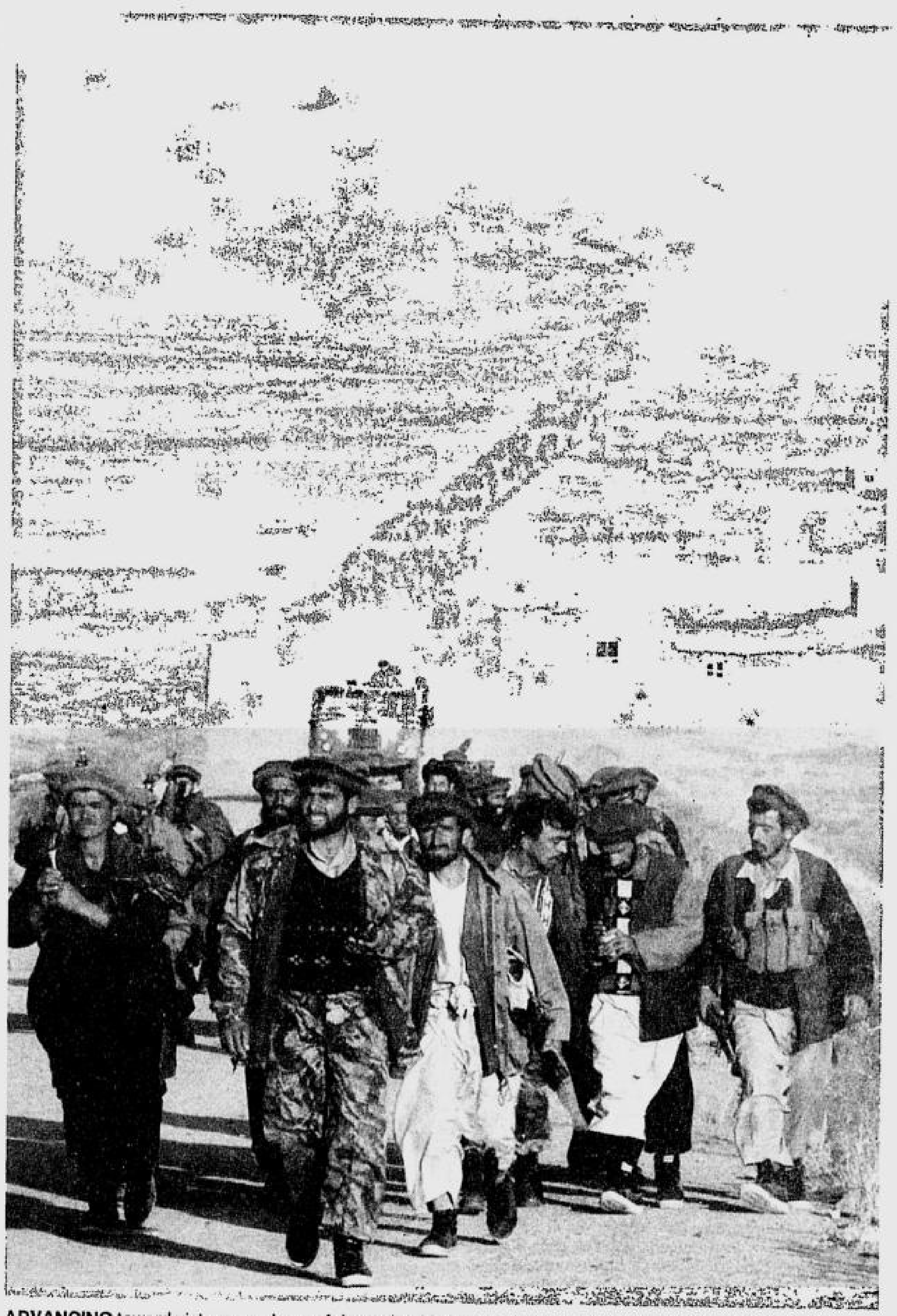
"I think it is great news. It means the initial phase of the campaign is going well," US Army Secretary Thomas White said.

White said he thought "a combination of well-targeted air power, along with movement on the ground by Northern Alliance forces," prompted the Taliban to flee Kabul. He spoke on CNN's "Larry King Live."

In Washington, however, a Pentagon spokesperson said the US military and the Northern Alliance were not as closely coordinated as it might appear.

"We are not tracking them place by place or city by city," Blair said. "We advise them but we are not necessarily giving them the goals they have to achieve."

Before the Northern Alliance entered Kabul, however, a US warplane dropped at least two bombs on the capital in the early hours of Tuesday morning, sparking a large fire in the southeast of the city, residents said.



ADVANCING toward victory, a column of determined Northern Alliance fighters prepare to capture their former capital, Taliban-occupied Talaquan.

GETTY IMAGES

One of the buildings targeted was the office of the Qatari-based satellite television channel, al-Jazeera, which has broadcast videotaped messages from Bin Laden and his deputies since the Sept. 11 attacks.

The office was destroyed in the attack but neighbors said they believed it was empty and there were no known casualties.

More bombings

US planes also attacked Taliban positions north of Kabul as well as western Herat and southern Ghazni overnight Monday, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported.

US planes pounded Shamshad town, 8 km from the Torkham border post between Pakistan and Afghanistan. One Taliban soldier was injured in the attack.

The Taliban's southern bastion of Kandahar was also attacked but details were not available.

The Taliban forces, which took control of Kabul in 1996, were said to be heading toward the town of Maidan Shahr, about 40 km south of the capital.

As they had in the northern part of the country, the Taliban appeared to have decided to surrender territory rather than fight.

The opposition broke through Taliban frontlines Monday after weeks of heavy US bombing. The Northern Alliance took the hills above Kabul after a string of victories that started Friday with the taking of Mazar-e-Sharif in the north.

Before abandoning the capital, the Taliban militia circled the kilometer-high city with tanks in anticipation of an all-out assault.

Broad-based gov't

But the fall of Kabul may complicate efforts to establish a broad-based government acceptable to the dominant Pashtun ethnic group, the core of Taliban support. The Northern Alliance is dominated by ethnic Tajiks, Uzbeks and Shiite Muslims.

At the United Nations, the United States, Russia and six nations that border Afghanistan—China, Iran Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan—pledged "to establish a broad-based Afghan administration on an urgent basis."

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and US Secretary of State Collin Powell agreed that political developments must be speeded up to match the military situation.

"Basically his message was speed, speed, speed," a senior US official said after Powell held talks with Annan and other members of the "six-plus-two" group.

The aim is to put together a transitional leadership that is broadly acceptable, possibly including Taliban defectors. However, Northern Alliance leaders have rejected bringing in former Taliban members.

Holding the capital increases the alliance's claim on a dominant role in a future government. That could cause problems for Pakistan, a key US ally in the anti-terrorism campaign.

The Northern Alliance considers Pakistan a patron of Taliban rulers even though Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf abandoned them after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Musharraf has called for Kabul to be declared a neutral city.

Atrocities

During an appearance Monday night on The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, Musharraf said the alliance's move on Kabul was "dangerous" because "we are now getting information that there are certain atrocities being perpetrated in Mazar-e Sharif."

"And that is exactly my apprehension that we have seen a lot of atrocities, a lot of killings between the various ethnic groups in Kabul after the Soviets left, and that's why we are of the opinion that Kabul should be maintained as a demilitarized city," Musharraf said.

UN officials in Islamabad also said Mazar-e-Sharif was rife with violence. Looting, kidnapping, roving gunmen and summary executions were reported.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, on a visit to India, appealed for civilians to be spared in Mazar-e-Sharif, with its "history of retaliation" that led to heavy civilian loss of life in the past.

Opposition commander Haji Mohammad Muhaqiq swiftly denied the reports, insisting the city was calm and peaceful. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Afghans ditch turbans, shave, dance, listen to music

(From page A1)

A young Northern Alliance soldier gestured to the other women to take their burqas off. Most of the women who were holding small children watched the soldiers.

Some closed the curtains that are on all buses that carry women in Afghanistan. Others simply looked away.

The one who slipped her burqa off quickly put it back on. Nearby, six women, all in burqas, were going to a wedding.

"For now we will leave the burqa on. We don't know yet who are these people in the city," said Mariam Jan. Her husband, an ethnic Tajik, Mohammed Wazir, said: "It's our tradition. We are not sure that it will stop."

Noor Mohammed, a small stout man, held a small tape player to his ear, waved his hands in the air dancing to the tune blaring from the radio.

"We are free," he shouted in his native Dari language.

Are they gone?

People peered through the open doors of abandoned Taliban military bases and whispered to each other: "Are they gone?"

The bodies of two Arabs lay near the United Nations guesthouse, outside a military compound in a city that was taken over by the Northern Alliance with virtually no resistance.

Bundles of burned clothes and blankets were piled on top of the corpses, and a charred rocket launcher lay beside one of them. People gathered to look.

The bullet-riddled bodies of five Pakistanis—foreign guests of the Taliban—lay outside a small police station in the heart of Kabul.

"Death to Pakistan! Death to terrorists!" shouted a crowd of several hundred who gathered in the park to gloat over the remains of their dead oppressors.

Sporadic gunfire pierced the crisp early morning air as Northern Alliance soldiers celebrated their victory over the Islamic militia that ousted them from the capital in 1996.

House-to-house

Opposition fighters moved quickly through Kabul neighborhoods, conducting house-to-house searches and seizing abandoned bases. Rifle fire was heard at some outposts on the edges of the city.

"I think there were some Taliban who were asleep when everyone else left," said a smiling resident, Abdul Jan. "They have woken up and they are thinking 'Oh my God, what can I do?'"

Fearing retaliation, a frightened employee of the Taliban's official Bakhtar News Agency hid his turban beneath the seat of his car.

"Do you think they will hurt me?" the employee, Abdul Rehman, asked a reporter.

In some areas of Kabul, residents gathered on street corners to talk about what they had seen, and pointed out houses of former Taliban commanders. Opposition soldiers said they were collecting arms as they moved door-to-door.

Groups of five to 10 men huddled in the streets, wrapped in woolen shawls. Northern Alliance fighters sped through the streets in vehicles camouflaged with mud that had been left behind by Taliban troops.

In northern Khair Khana district, inhabited largely by ethnic Tajiks who fled the earlier fighting north of the city, some people shouted: "Congratulations. Oh my God, they are here."

"We leave everything to God. We don't know what will happen. We pray only for peace," said Sheer Agha, an elderly man wrapped in a striped shawl, his beard reaching almost to his chest.

A happy day

"We are happy. Now I have to go to the barber to shave my beard," said Zabiullah, an ethnic Tajik. "Today is a happy day."

Two men on a bicycle looked at each other. "Do you think I can shave now?" one asked. The Taliban required men to grow long beards and failure to do so invited harsh punishment.

Houses used by Taliban leaders in the once posh neighborhood of Wazir Akbar Khan were abandoned. The large steel doors of the home of former Health Minister Mullah Abbas Akhund were wide open.

Homes were also abandoned on Street 15 of Wazir Akbar Khan, famous in this area as "the street of guests," a reference to the Arab, Pakistani, Chechen and Uzbek volunteers who were allied with the Taliban.

Many were affiliated with Osama bin Laden, the chief suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that killed about 4,500 people in the United States.

After the Taliban rulers refused to hand over Bin Laden, the United States launched the bombing campaign that cleared the way for the Northern Alliance's advances.

In the money market in the old city, businessmen said departing Taliban soldiers emptied the stores of goods and money.

One moneychanger said Taliban soldiers on tanks stopped in front of the shops, demanded the money and then rumbled out of the city.

Beneficiary

One immediate beneficiary of the change in power, however, was a group of 360 prisoners freed from the police headquarters in Kabul. A jail for religious offenders was also emptied.

"When the opposition arrived this morning they released everybody," said Esmatullah, who was serving time for forgery.

For many Kabul residents, their happiness was not so much an expression of support for the Northern Alliance as an outpouring of relief that the Taliban had gone.

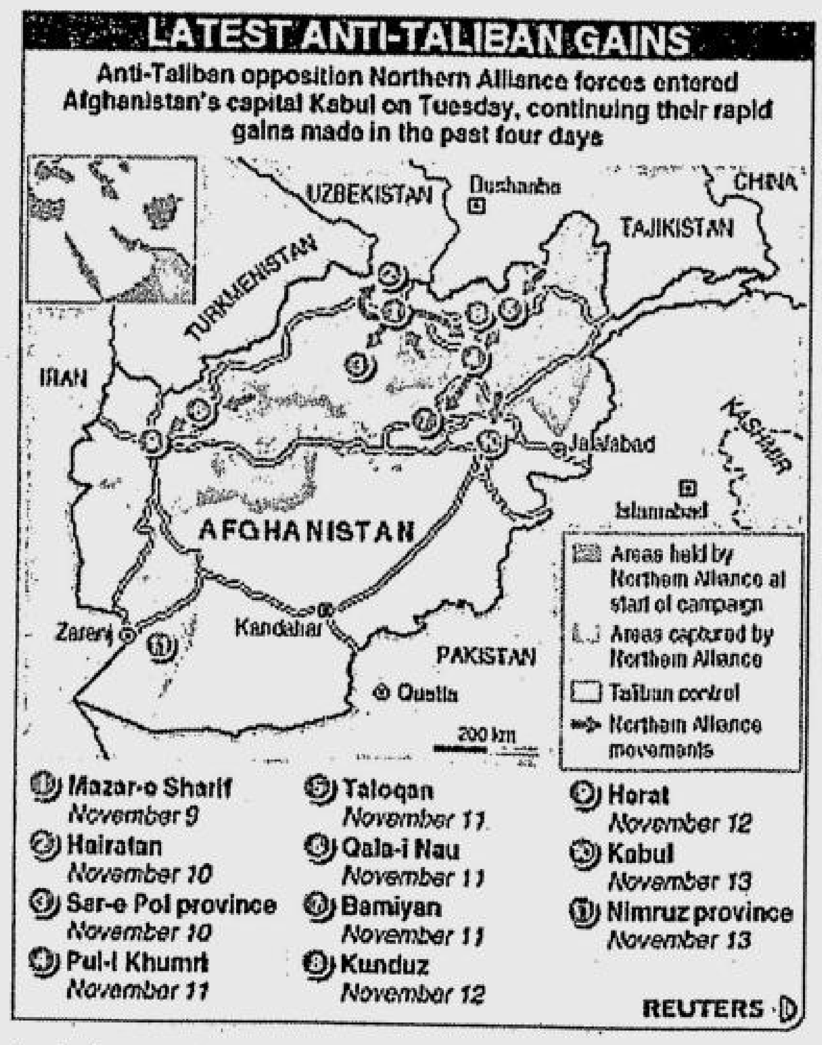
They hope that Afghanistan's uncertain future will be better than its recent past.

But the optimism is tinged with fear that the latest upheaval in Kabul's tumultuous history may see a return to the lawlessness and anarchy that characterized the 1992-1996 mujahedin government.

That regime, which followed the collapse of a Moscow-backed government, included several of the Northern Alliance ethnic factions that returned to Kabul on Tuesday.

"If the opposition forces are able to keep security, and ethnic differences do not emerge among them, then I will be very happy to see them back in Kabul because the Taliban were a tyrannical regime," said Abdul Gafoor, 58.

"But if the opposition forces repeat the atrocities of six years earlier, that will be a tragedy for Afghanistan and especially for Kabul." *Reports from AP and AFP*


LATEST ANTI-TALIBAN GAINS
Anti-Taliban opposition Northern Alliance forces entered Afghanistan's capital Kabul on Tuesday, continuing their rapid gains made in the past four days
UZBEKISTAN
Dushanbe
CHINA
TAJIKISTAN
TURKMENISTAN
IRAN
Jalalabad
KASHMIR
Islamabad
AFGHANISTAN
Zaranj
Kandahar
PAKISTAN
Quetta
200 km
Areas held by Northern Alliance at start of campaign
Areas captured by Northern Alliance
Taliban control
Northern Alliance movements
① Mazar-e Sharif November 9
② Hairatan November 10
③ Sar-e Pol province November 10
④ Pul-i Khumri November 11
⑤ Taloqan November 11
⑥ Qala-i Nau November 11
⑦ Bamiyan November 11
⑧ Kunduz November 12
⑨ Herat November 12
⑩ Kabul November 13
⑪ Nimruz province November 13
REUTERS

What is Kabul?

LOCATION: Kabul lies along the Kabul River in the east-central part of the country, about 129 kilometers from the Pakistan border to the east and 242 km from the Tajikistan border to the north.

POPULATION: The capital and largest city of Afghanistan, Kabul has a population estimated at between 1 to 1.5 million.

GEOGRAPHY: Kabul is about 1,800 meters above sea level at roughly the same latitude as Little Rock, Arkansas. The city is nestled in a triangular valley between the two steep mountain ranges.

CLIMATE: The city has a continental dry climate with large differences between day and night temperatures and quick seasonal transitions. Summer high temperatures in July average about 27 degrees Celsius, though it's frequently much hotter. During winter, the average lows are around -4 degrees Celsius. The rainy season is from October to April.

TIME: Kabul and all of Afghanistan are 9 hours and 30 minutes ahead of eastern standard time.

ECONOMY: Kabul is the economic and cultural center of the country, but is mostly in ruins.

HISTORY: The recent history of Kabul reflects that of Afghanistan in general. In 1953, the Kabul-located government began a close relationship with the USSR. A coup in 1973 established a republic, and the monarchy was abolished. The country was embroiled in a civil war for most of the 1980s with occupying Soviet forces supporting the regime of Babrak Karmal. The Soviets withdrew in 1989, leaving a power vacuum which none of the various armed factions was able to fill until the Taliban religious army solidified its control over the capital and most of the rest of Afghanistan by the late 1990s.

SOURCES: US government data, AP files, various Internet websites. *AP*

ASSISTANT COACH

PBA okays Zamar appointment

BARRIOS

Standings	W	L
z-Shell	8	4
x-Sta. Lucia	8	5
x-Pop Cola	7	6
x-San Miguel	7	6
x-Talk N Text	7	6
x-Red Bull	6	6
x-Ginebra	6	7
Alaska	5	7
Tanduay	5	8
Purefoods	4	8

z-top quarterfinalist
x-quarterfinalist

GAMES TODAY (Philsports)
5:05 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull
7:10 p.m.—Shell vs Alaska

THE PBA yesterday gave its nod on the inclusion of an assistant coach appointed by the Basketball Association of the Philippines to the RP squad in the Asian Games next year.

PBA executive director Sonny Barrios yesterday said the appointment of Boysie Zamar as deputy presents no problem at all and would be confirmed upon the signing of the memorandum of agreement between the PBA and the BAP.

"We see no problem with the addition of Zamar to the coaching staff. It's only a matter of time until we sign the agreement," said Barrios.

Drafted by the BAP, the MOA will pave the way for the PBA to select, train and even bankroll the team to next year's Asiad in Busan, South Korea.

BAP secretary general Graham Lim, who batted for Zamar's inclusion, said the MOA would be forged not later than next week, probably simultaneous with the announcement of the head coach to be named by the PBA.

In today's PBA games, Alaska shoots for a slot in the next phase as it tackles top quarterfinalist Shell at 7:10 p.m. at the Philsports Arena.

Should the Aces beat the Turbo Chargers, they will automatically advance to the next round and eliminate Purefoods, which will collide with Batang Red Bull in the curtain-raiser.

The provision on Zamar's appointment in the MOA was actually the only proposal of the BAP from three original propositions accepted by the play-for-pay cage body.

During their preliminary talks, the BAP proposed that the national women's team be taken under the care of the PBA and that the PBA-backed RP team should be allowed to compete against foreign teams in invitational tournaments besides from the Asian Games.

NBA Results

Golden State 86, Memphis 79; Utah 105, Orlando 98. *AP*

Knights vs Gems

GAMES TODAY (Araullo Gym, Cabanatuan City)
3 p.m.— TPG Davao vs Nueva Ecija
Cebu Coliseum
5:30 p.m.—San Juan vs Cebuana Lhuillier

Second Phase

Standings	W	L
Northern Conference		
LBC Batangas	11	1
FedEx Laguna	10	3
Andok's San Juan	7	4
Nueva Ecija	3	9
Southern Conference		
Negros	9	4
Cebuana Lhuillier	4	8
TPG Davao	3	10
Socsargen-Taguig	3	11

ANDOK'S San Juan begins its three-game climb toward the No. 2 qualifying slot in the Northern Conference when it tangles with Cebuana Lhuillier at 5:30 p.m. today in the MBA Second Phase at the Cebu City Coliseum.

Carrying a 7-win, 4-loss slate, the national titlist Knights need to sweep their last three games to overtake the FedEx Laguna Lakers (10-3) and gain the homecourt edge in their best-of-three series for the right to challenge top qualifier LBC Batangas (11-1) for the conference crown.

The Knights blasted the Gems, 91-73, in their first meeting on Oct. 10 and are favored to do a repeat as the Gems are on a skid, dropping their last three games.

At 4-8, the Gems are contesting the No. 2 qualifying berth in the Southern Conference with the TPG Davao Eagles (3-8) and badly need a win to lift their morale.

The Knights, however, are expected to vent their ire on the Gems to make up for their 95-85 defeat to the FedEx Laguna Lakers at the San Juan Gym last Friday.

Andok's San Juan coach Philip Cezar will call on Chris Calaguio, Bruce Dacia, Chito Victolero and twin towers Rafi Reavis and Omanzie Rodriguez to prop up the Knights' bid to remain in contention for the Second Phase title.

TPG Davao tackles Nueva Ecija in the 3 p.m. opener at the Araullo Gym in Cabanatuan City.

U-Bix Pro-Am begins at Riviera

WITH virtually the country's top guns in attendance, the U-Bix Riviera Pro-Am Golf Championship begins today at the Riviera's Langer course in Silang, Cavite.

Among the major stars include Cassius Casas, Richard Sinfuego, Robert Pactolerin, Tony Lascuna, Rey Pagunsan and former jungolf champion Gerard Cantada, who will be having his second stint as a pro after a strong showing in the last Philippine Open at Wack Wack.

The presence of the father-and-son tandem of Juanito and Juvic Pagunsan will add spice to the tournament. Juvic was a gold medalist in the last Sea Games in Kuala Lumpur. He learned the game's rudiments from his father, a journeyman of many years.

A Toyota Altis, a best seller since its launch last August, is a hole-in-one prize at No. 17 during the four-day event through Toyota Motor Philippines' Danny Isla, TMP's first vice president for marketing.

The tournament's revival after its last staging is through the benevolence of U-Bix president Bert Bravo with help from Comm. Danny Pizarro, Riviera's president and chair of the organizing committee.

The unique one-ball, two-some format will again be applied in the fabled Pro-Am, which has the backing of San Miguel Beer, Pagcor's Casino-Filipino through Efraim Genuino, DHL Philippines through Rod Feliciano and Mizuno through Lovell Gopez.

Cash prizes and gift certificates await the winners of the tournament supported by Fortune Tobacco, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, Roche Int'l, Foremost, Vic Sotto's Travel Bug, Solahart, Caffe Appassionato, Citgo, Pivo Praha beer, Citra Tollways, Golden Grove Estates, Bravo Golf, Cena Restaurant and Bel-Air Bakery on N. Garcia Street in Makati City.

The VIP/Celebrity Pro-Am of the event was held yesterday at the Riviera's Langer course with Bravo and Pizarro leading the participants.

Greenhills 1 Alaxan's best intervillage team

GREENHILLS 1 drew the needed inspiration from its top two players as it recorded 326 points and emerged the best team in the first round of the Alaxan 10th Grand Intervillage Golf Championship last Monday at Wack Wack.

Sonny Go, a 12-handicapper, showed the way for the Greenhills 1 bets with 38 points while Andy Co, a 9-handicapper, followed suit with 37 points in the 12-to-play, 10-to-count event which resumes with the second and final round next Monday.

Others who scored for Greenhills 1 were Louie Borromeo, Doming Hernandez and Pete Lavarro with 35 points apiece, Honor Mendoza with 31, Manuel Bernabe with 30, Tom Adarme with 29, and Ernie Pilares and Arthur Reyes with 28 each.

The Intervillage, organized in 1991 to promote fellowship among village golfers is sponsored by Alaxan, BJ Marthel International, MasterCard, Pinoy Auctions.com, ICTSI, STI Computer College, Callaway, Odyssey, Haagen Dazs, Pisanti golf wear, Menzi and Co. and 357 Boracay.

Magallanes emerged as top team in the Championship Division with 318 points built around Peter Kawsek's 38 points and VG Martinez's 36. Second was Greenhills 2 (315) followed by former overall champions Philam Homes (297) and Merville Park (294).

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

JUN Iñigo (left) getting pointers from partner Cassius Casas during yesterday's VIP-Celebrity Pro-Am at Riviera's Langer course.

Riviera's admirable Mutt & Jeff

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I RAISE a glass to John Blanch and Lewis Rissman, the "Mutt & Jeff" combination at the Riviera Golf & Country Club. Their teamwork has kept Riviera in shape all year round. For this, their management style has become the envy of many golf course owners in the country.

My fellow sportswriters sampled Riviera's Couples yesterday in conjunction with the VIP/Celebrity Pro-Am of the U-Bix Riviera Pro-Am held at Riviera's Langer.

Man, the Couples course has not lost its aura. From tee to green, you see nothing but perfection. Carpet-like tee boxes. Well-manicured fairways. Greens truer than true. And this, despite the fact that Langer is the official venue for the historic revival of the fabled Pro-Am through U-Bix president Bert Bravo and Riviera president Danny Pizarro.

To illustrate, our round yesterday was hit by a steady drizzle almost all day long. The night before, driving rains struck the course.

When someone suggested that winter rules be used for the round, the starter strongly protested: "We never allow winter rules here."

I later learned that Riviera prides itself in observing summer rules all year round.

Over at Riviera, favoritism doesn't exist. Both courses get equal treatment from the tender loving care of Blanch and Rissman.

Take a bow, fellas.

'Ulutan' at Roligon

DUE to insistent public demand, a 2-Cock Ulutan will be presented again at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City on Nov. 18.

Hosted by ASF & Co., this unique format of cockfighting has a guaranteed prize of P35,000 for a registration fee of P 1,100 and a minimum bet of P2,200.

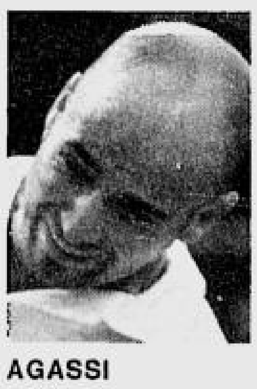
For inquiries and cookhouse reservation, call 833-2275 or 833-1638.

Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty said that a bonus of P10,000 will be divided among the winners in the last round. This is aside from the cash bonus of P500 per win from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ASF and Ty also said that paying patrons are qualified to join the raffle whose prizes are electric fan, rice cooker, vinyl portable closet and rice dispenser.

Other derbies scheduled at Roligon are: PCS 5-Cock "Season Opening" Derby by Ricky Castillo, Jr. on Nov. 19, 21, 24 and 27 and LA 939 4-Cock Derby by Lito Alcantara on Nov. 29.

Dad Agassi returns victorious



AGASSI

SYDNEY, Australia—It took Andre Agassi a little while to adjust to being a dad.

The 31-year-old admitted to being a little rusty Monday in his first match since his son Jaden Gil was born last month.

But it took him only two games to get his mind back on tennis in a 6-2, 6-4 demolition of Australia's Patrick Rafter on opening night of the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup at Sydney's SuperDome.

No. 2 Lleyton Hewitt had earlier overcome Sebastien Grosjean as he and No. 3-ranked Agassi closed the gap on No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten in a tournament that will decide top spot for the 2001 ATP Champions Race.

Hewitt rallied from a set down to beat No. 7 Grosjean 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in 1 hour, 50 minutes.

Agassi, coming back from time off to marry long-time partner and former women's No. 1 Steffi Graf and await the birth of their first child, dropped his opening service game before recovering to dismantle Rafter in 1:13.

During a post-match courtside, Agassi received a standing ovation from the almost 10,000-strong crowd when quizzed about his new wife and baby.

"If feels good ... It's all so new to me," he said. "Very few things in your life you cherish so much, and I have to say the one you cherish the most is your child.

1,500 kids join taekwondo

MORE than 1,500 boys and girls are expected to compete in the 2001 Milo National Age Group Taekwondo Championships set for Nov. 17-18 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, only taekwondo-jins 14 years and below who belong to affiliated schools, chapters and branches throughout Metro Manila and other cities and provinces including military and police dependents are eligible to compete.

Competition will be conducted in five divisions, namely, boys' novice, advance and blackbelt and girls' novice and advance. Each division will be divided into the following height classes: 4-0 feet, 4-0 to 4-3, 4-3 to 4-6, 4-6 to 49, 4-9 to 5-0, 5-0 to 5-3 and over 5-3.

"This event is part of PTA's grassroots program," explains vice president Sung Chon Hong. "This gives young boys and girls the chance to develop effective techniques and styles at an early age."

SPORTSONTV

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LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA – Sacramento vs Toronto at 9 a.m. (r – 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA Preseason NIT First Round – Detroit vs Michigan State at 12:30 p.m. (r – midnight), Wyoming vs USC at 2:30 p.m. (r – tomorrow at 2:30 a.m.) on ESPN

W. Blown heads cast

WIND Blown, Batangas Entry and Ilocandia Slew will be the horses to watch in the 6th San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup races this weekend.

The five-day racing festival officially kicks off today and ends on Sunday where Wind Blown sees action in the Classic.

Batangas Entry also runs on that day as he competes in the Three-Year-Old Colts, while Ilocandia Slew sees action in the Three-Year-Old Fillies.

The other three major races—Juvenile Colts, Juvenile Fillies and Sprint—of the event get going on Saturday, Nov. 17.

Total sales for the racefest is expected to hit P141.5 million.

6th Breeders' Cup gets going

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

HOSTING the annual Breeders' Cup at a time when everyone is hurting is taking a challenge where the risk is greater than usual. Still, members of the organizing Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners and officials of the sponsoring San Miguel Beer are pushing through with this year's edition of the country's richest and hottest horse racing event in recent Philippine sports history.

Set for Nov. 14-18 at the vastly improved Santa Ana Park, the 6th SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup is expected to break attendance records—rain or shine—with its excellent programs while posting robust gross sales of P144 million, something which would benefit not only the horse racing industry but the government as well from taxes derived from the expected record receipts.

"We are honored to host again this premier horse racing event in partnership with San Miguel Beer," said Marho president and Breeders' Cup founder Aristeo "Putch" Puyat. "For truly, the SMB-Marho is a long-lasting tie-up, an ideal marriage solid as rock based on mutual respect and sincerity. It is an excellent example of the private sector contributing to the development of Philippine sports in general and horse racing in particular."

Patterned after the fabled Breeders' Cup of the United States, the Philippine version was launched in grand fashion in 1996 by low-profile businessman and noted sportsman Putch Puyat in tandem with Marho chair Leonardo "Sandy" Javier, an equally successful entrepreneur of Andok's fame and team owner of the top-rated San Juan Knights in the Metropolitan Basketball Association.

Through the years, the Puyat-Javier teamup has paid off handsome dividends as the SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup blossomed to become the country's most dominant horse racing event at present. And one reason why Putch and Sandy click so well is that they are hell-bent to get something done when everyone thinks they can't; two guys with the zeal and grit and heart for sports.

The mere fact that it is now on its sixth year is proof enough that the SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup has attained its lofty objective, thanks to the unshakable faith of Putch and Sandy and other Marho officials such as Albert Trinidad, Rudy Mendoza, Hermie Esguerra and Jose Mari Franco; the generous support of giant beer conglomerate San Miguel Corp. headed by boss Danding Cojuangco and, last but not the least, the patronage and confidence of the racing public.

For this year, three of the six championship races will be disputed on Saturday while the rest will be held on Sunday, including the centerpiece P1M Classic covering a distance of 2,050 meters where multi-awarded "Wind Blown" is the prohibitive favorite. Also billed on Sunday are the Mile Classic for Colts and Fillies. To be contested on Saturday are the Juvenile Colts (sweepstakes race winner "Al Baruq" is tipped to win the race), Juvenile Fillies (unbeaten "Golden Ballet" is the heavy favorite here) and the Sprint championship set over 900 meters where five touted speedsters will clash for the P600,000 paycheck.

Welcoat wins

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Montaña Jewels vs Ateneo-Pioneer
5:30 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs ITCSI Archers

BY DENNIS U. EROA

WELCOAT Paints outplayed Kutitap Toothpaste, 84-76, for its third straight win even as Blu Detergent gained solo second with a masterful 90-68 triumph over Ana Freezers last night in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Starring Ren Ren Ritualo, Jojo Manalo and Yancy de Ocampo, the Paintmasters jumped the gun on the bewildered Sparklers, who failed to put up a decent fight throughout the one-sided match. Kutitap dropped to an even 2-2 win-loss slate.

Blu also played merciless against sluggish-playing Ana. The Detergent Kings, who got 19 points from Edwin Bacani, recorded their second win in three games, while dropping the Freezer Kings to 1-2.

Ana, which claimed the scalp of defending champion Shark last week, was in the thick of the fight only in the first period. But things started to get worse when they fared miserably from the floor and allowed Blu to break away with costly turnovers.

Italian prevails

ITALIAN engineer Luigi Manzi recently won the first-ever Round the Volcano Regatta, besting other Hobie 16 sailors who sailed around the famous and still active Taal Volcano.

With the tournament's success, the organizing Taal Lake Yacht Club, headed by former MYC Commodore Peter Capotosto, has scheduled the second staging of the Round the Volcano Regatta on Nov. 24-25.

This time, the winner will take the Batangas Governor's Cup.

"There is a need to promote sailing as a sport here, considering we have many islands in the country," said Capotosto, who has gotten the backing of both the Department of Tourism and the provincial government of Batangas for this event.

Starting from the TLYC in Talisay, the 50-kilometer regatta will be a two-leg race and will pass through the towns of Laurel and Mataas na Kahoy. There will be three more legs to be held outside the TLYC.

MP Turbo races

THE SECOND installment of MP Turbo's 2001 Speedfest will be held this weekend at Subic International Raceway.

The four-leg multi-motorsport event will be staged at different sites within the Subic Freeport Zone, which is headed by chair Felicito Payumo, who also graced the event's opening ceremonies.

Sponsoring the event is ZED, Gulf Oil, BLTBCo., Gatorade, Days Motorcycles, Timex Watches, Rainforest Mineral Water, Gandeur Candies, Universal Motors Corp., Mitsubishi Motors, Francisco Motors Corp., Subic LeMans Kart Track and Subic International Raceway.

MP Turbo will also conduct a Race Car Driving Clinic with its expert drivers Carlos Anton, George Apacible, Monching Gutierrez and Potenciano guiding the participants on Sunday. For details call Toti or Lyn in MP Turbo 833-5501 locals 37 and 38.

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India netters rout PCA opponents

TOP seed Radhika Tulpule of India overpowered local bet Mary Ann Dumlao, 6-0, 6-0,yesterday to reach the third round of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor court.

Ranked No. 511 in the world, Tulpule will next meet Karen Reyes, who scored a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Tina Gomez.

Three other seeds from India–No. 2 Shruti Dhawan, No. 3 Sonal Phadke and No. 4 Radhika Mandke—also earned their places in the next round of this event supported by Coca Cola, San Miguel Beer, Eastern Telecom, Stronghold Insurance, PVL Restaurant, Little Lawrence, Wilson, Unilab, Cathay Drug Company, Copacobana Hotel and official ball Dunlop.

The world's No. 515 Dhawan, winner of two Circuits in India early this year, outclassed Debbie Ong to advance against Janet Uy, a 6-3, 6-2 winner over Luanne Mortera.

Phadke, who won an ITF Juniors tournament in Zimbabwe last year, won by default over Alona Tolentino to arrange a second-round meeting with Petrona Bantay, who beat Anika Getubig, 6-1, 6-2.

Mandke, ranked No. 894 in the world, whipped Joanne Legaspi, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against Jocelyn Garcia, a 6-4, 6-1 winner over Kristel Samala.

Earlier, fifth seed Czarina Mae Arevalo downed Tracy Santos, 6-0, 6-3, to advance against Alyssa Labay, who rallied past Shirley Valler, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, while defending champion and No. 6 Kim Hye-Jin of Korea dumped Cathy Fong, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against Deena Rose Cruz, who routed Geminese Co, 6-0, 6-0.

Other winners were No. 7 Kim Yoo-Jeong over Jackie Raymundo, 6-0, 6-2; No. 8 Josephine Paguyo over Julie Ann Cadiente, 6-1, 6-3; Sue Donald over Joana Ponce, 6-1, 6-0; and Margo Flores over Jenny Segovia, 6-3, 6-2.

Iligan tanker shines

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Genevie Natinga captured four more gold medals yesterday, while Iligan City swimmers continued to shine in the second day of the First Mindanao Friendship Games at the Mindanao Civic Center here.

Natinga duplicated her opening day haul of four gold medals and a silver medal with wins in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 400m individual medley and 50m breaststroke and a silver medal finish in the 800m freestyle on a day Iligan City hauled seven more gold medals.

Coming off a rousing start, Iligan City showed its domination of the pool as it improved its medal gain to 13 gold, 11 silver and eight bronze medals with the other three gold medals coming from Nikko Cao Hok (400m freestyle, 100m butterfly) and Shahani Navarro (800m freestyle).

Norton Alamara of Coastland Davao Swim Team stole some of the thunder from Natinga, taking three gold medals in Day 2 to up his total to five as legendary Jairullah Jaitullah's squad remained at second behind Iligan City with eight gold, four silver and four bronze medals.

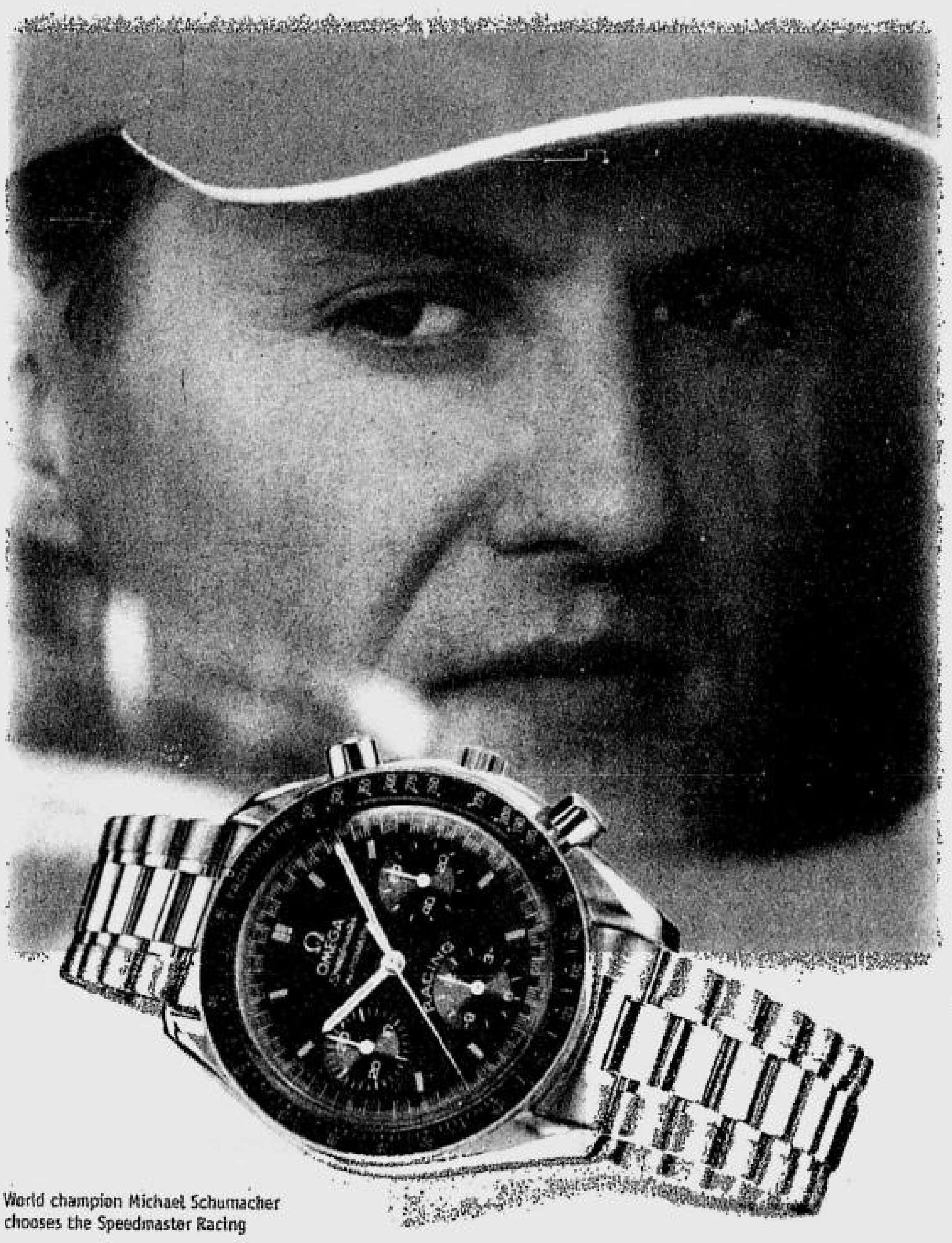
Dialogue tomorrow

JAIME Sebastian, president of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines, yesterday said they will continue to press for the revamp in the Philippine Sports Commission although they vowed to show up in their meeting with PSC officials tomorrow.

Sebastian said he will obey President Arroyo's order for them to sit down and talk things over instead of going to the streets to air their gripes against PSC chair Butch Tuason and the four commissioners.

"We will be there to talk to them face to face and submit the list of our demands," said Sebastian, who was also informed of the President's instructions regarding their salaries and food service.

Marc Anthony Reyes



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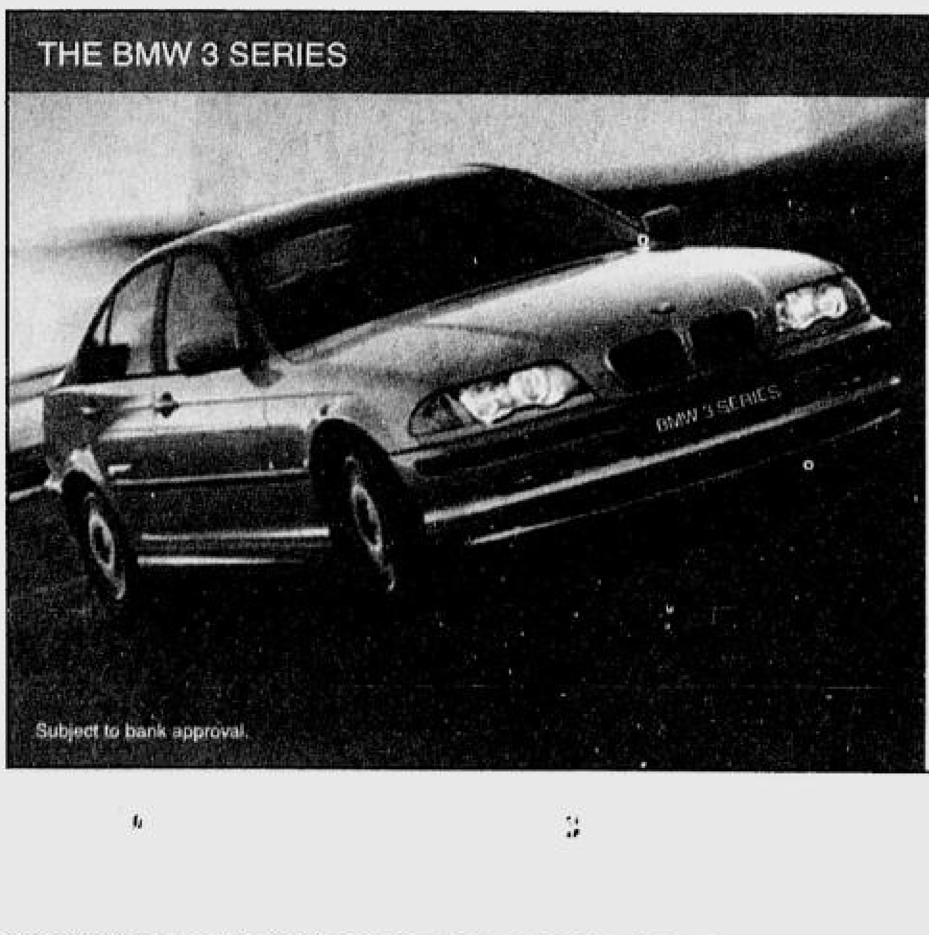

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Mayors favor incinerator to solve garbage problem

ATIENZA

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza and Caloocan City Rep. Edgar Erice both looked at incinerators as a final solution to the festering garbage problem of Metro Manila.

Atienza yesterday rallied other Metro Manila Mayors to advocate his plan to build incinerators to avert the garbage crisis.

Erice on Monday filed a bill seeking to amend Republic Act No. 8749 or the Clean Air Act of 1999, which bans the use of incinerators for being environmental hazards. He also filed another bill seeking to privatize garbage collection.

Atienza proposed the immediate construction of at least one incinerator in each of the five districts in the metropolis. He offered Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila to be one of the sites for an incinerator and suggested Payatas in Quezon City as another location.

Both Smokey Mountain and Payatas were former garbage dumps.

Atienza said the mayors expressed their "overwhelming" support for his proposal during a meeting last Monday.

"All of them understand that incinerators are the lasting solution to the (garbage) problem," Atienza told reporters after a forum in Pasay City.

MAYORS FAVOR/ A26

BAREFOOT PROTEST

Unshod children join their parents in a picket at the Commission on Human Rights building in Quezon City to seek the withdrawal of the military from the Mangyan communities in Mindoro province. *(Related photo on Page A27)*

JOAN BONDOC

Parañaque no place for drunken drivers

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

IF you drink and drive, avoid Parañaque.

The Parañaque government has passed an ordinance imposing stiff penalties on people driving under the influence of alcohol in the city and its immediate environs.

To back the ordinance, the local government has acquired hi-tech portable breath analyzers which are used to determine the amount of alcohol in a person's system.

Mayor Joey Marquez on Monday said he would seek the support of other mayors in southern Metro Manila in an ambitious crackdown on drunken driving.

But the mayor admitted that the crackdown might draw criticisms from the public and even local officials, considering the presence of many popular drinking places in southern Metro Manila.

Under the ordinance, those driving in Parañaque's streets will be considered drunk if they are found to have at least 0.06 percent of blood alcohol concentration in their system.

Suspected drunk drivers will first be tested by a law enforcer using the breath analyzing device. Those who register positive for alcohol will undergo another test in a laboratory.

A drunk driver apprehended for the first time will be fined P5,000 or jailed for 30 days, according to the ordinance.

Second-time offenders will be fined the same amount and jailed also for a month, while those arrested for the third time will be fined, jailed, and could lose their driver's license.

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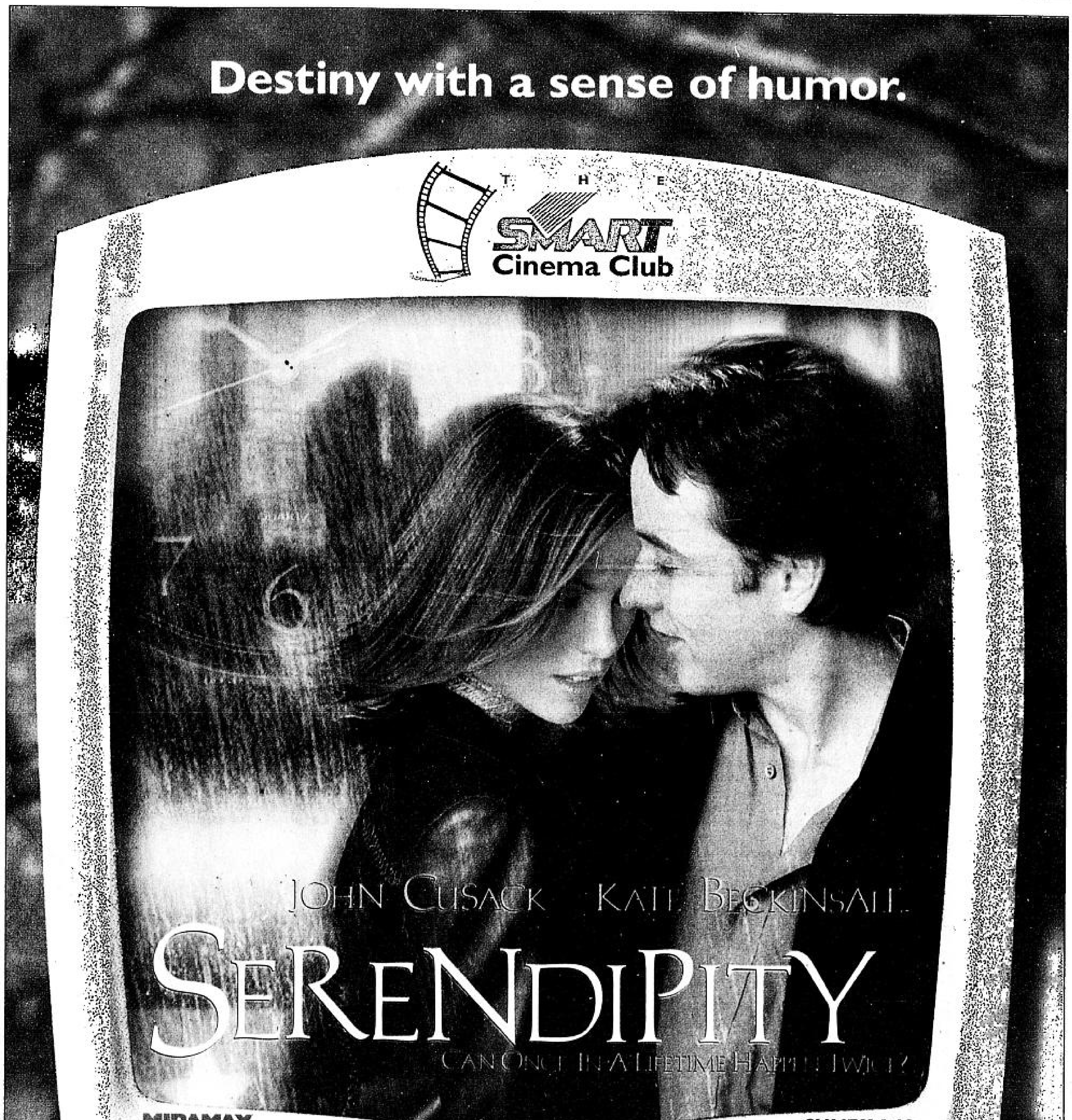

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Gabriela accuses Isafp of 'prying'

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

THE MILITANT women's group Gabriela yesterday accused the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp) of spying on its members and of trying to turn a Gabriela member into an informer.

In a news conference yesterday, Gabriela leaders denounced the military for allegedly making desperate moves on perceived enemies of state.

Gabriela deputy secretary general Emmi de Jesus cited the case of Relita Malundras, who teaches children from one to six years old at the Bahay Lunduyan Learning Center (BLLC), a Gabriela affiliate day-care center.

De Jesus said Malundras was accosted by four Isafp agents in Philcoa, Quezon City, and invited her to become part of the intelligence network.

The agents reportedly offered Malundras P150,000 in cash, cellular phones and a monthly stipend in exchange for information on her colleagues in Gabriela.

"We are aghast that the military should monitor activities of a day-care center," De Jesus said. "Is the military so paranoid it even suspects day-care teachers and their toddler and pre-school students as threats to national security?"

She said the agents allegedly bombarded Malundras with questions on her activities at the day-care center, as well as that of her family and co-workers.

When Malundras refused to cooperate, the agents reportedly told her they had already "planted" agents in cause-oriented groups and people's organizations, including Gabriela.

The agents also told Malundras they had been conducting surveillance on her and her colleagues for over a year now.

De Jesus said if that incident was a portent of things to come, then the general public should "be very alarmed."

"If an ordinary day-care center such as BLLC could be subject to military surveillance, there can be no limit to the military's invasion of any group or any person's privacy," De Jesus warned.

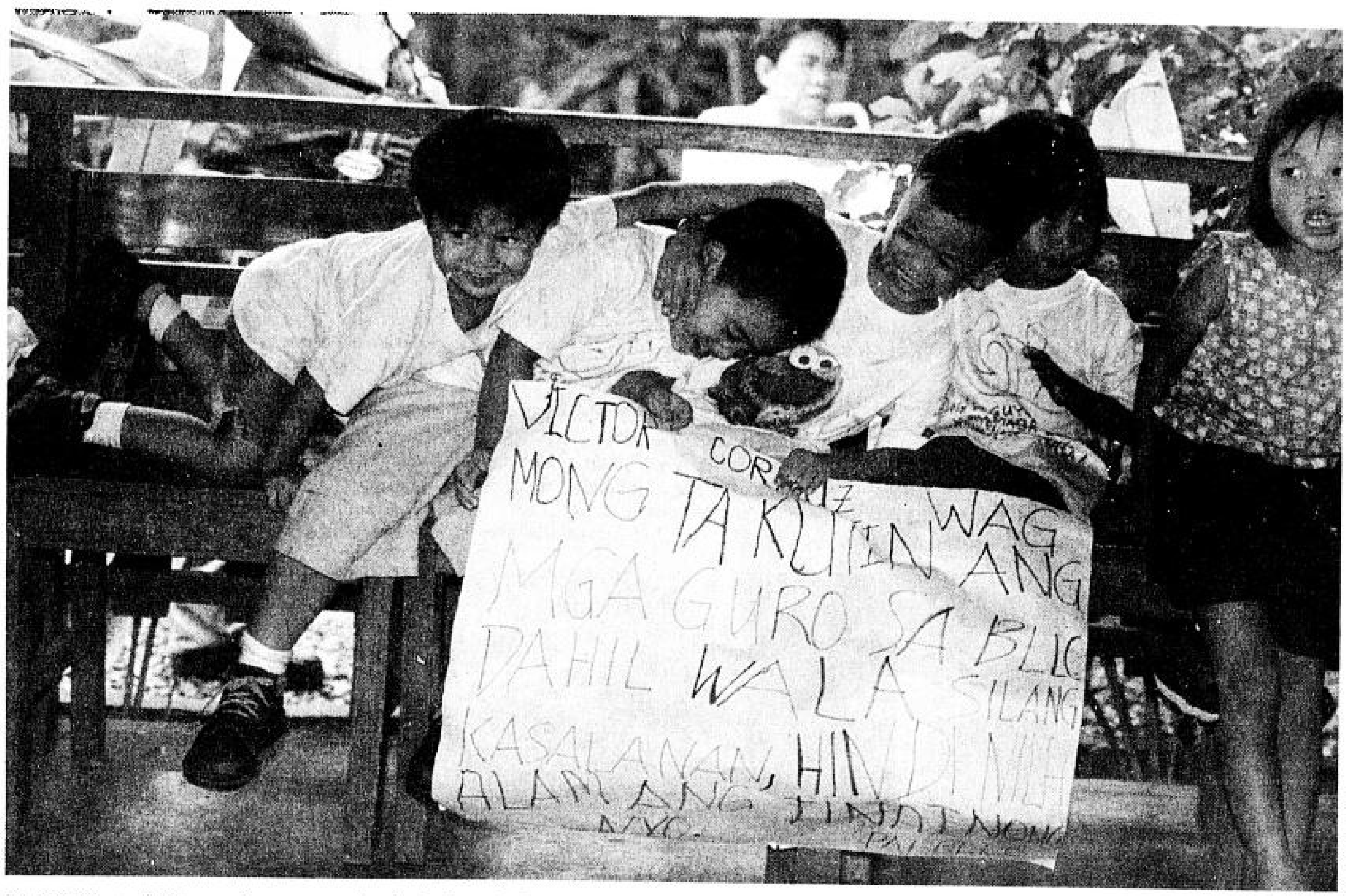
Nemia Villaflor, officer in charge of Parent's Alternative Inc., the organization which administers BLLC, also condemned the incident.

Villaflor said since the time Malundras had her brush with the military, she and her co-workers have been living in fear.

Villaflor also said even the little children enrolled at the center have been affected by the incident.

"We demand that Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes look into the activities of Isapf, which violates basic democratic rights of legitimate organizations," De Jesus said.

Gabriela also called on Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpuz to put a stop to the "unconstitutional activities" of his agents.


VICTOR CORPUZ
WAG MONG TAKUTIN ANG MGA GURO SA BLLC DAHIL WALA SILANG KASALANAN, HINDI

JOANBONDOC

PLAYFUL pupils from a day-care center in Project 3, Quezon City join their teachers in protesting alleged harassment and spying by Isapf.

Mayors favor incinerator to solve garbage problem

(From page A25)

While Atienza supports the current waste segregation and recycling scheme of the Metro Manila Development Authority, he said incinerators would enable local governments to burn 30 percent of garbage, which remain uncollected under the present garbage program.

He said he and other mayors would schedule a meeting this week with MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to propose the use of incinerators.

"I'm sure he will approve the idea," Atienza said.

He said Senators John Osmeña and Aquilino Pimentel also expressed support for his proposal in a meeting yesterday morning.

He said Pimentel had told him to proceed with his plan as the Clean Air Act "is not yet being implemented."

Atienza added that both Osmeña and Pimentel assured him they would push for the amendment of the Clean Air Act.

In filing his bill that would lift the ban on the use of incinerators, Erice said that a "recent study" showed that motor vehicles emit more deadly fumes than incinerators.

Under the Clean Air Act, hospitals and other health care institutions would no longer be allowed to burn their biomedical and infectious wastes a year from now.

"The problem of disposing their waste would be all the more chaotic when incineration is totally phased out as up to now, we still do not have any viable, ecological and environmentally sound method of disposing hospital and hazardous wastes," Erice said.

But the use of incinerators to burn garbage is expected to draw vehement objections from environmentalists who have been rejecting incinerators as an alternative solution to the garbage crisis.

Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez on Monday had pushed for the amendment of the Clean Air Act, saying it kept local governments from looking for more viable solutions to the garbage crisis in Metro Manila.

Also on Monday, Erice filed another bill seeking to privatize garbage collection. He proposed that private "service providers" be contracted to collect garbage, citing the inefficiency of the government in doing the job.

In his privilege speech, Erice noted that "the current status of garbage collection in Metro Manila is far from desirable."

"We are still using primitive equipment," Erice said. "The collection is inefficient, uncoordinated and unprofessional. Worse, it is prone to corruption and is often governed by the ever-changing political climate of our government."

He said many countries have already privatized their solid waste management "in pursuit of cost savings, desire to access new technologies and reduce risks associated with providing waste management services."

Erice also proposed that Metro Manila be divided into north and south sectors, which would be serviced by the private contractors. He said that service providers would be chosen through public bidding and should be contracted for 25 years to ensure "continuity" in the system.

The service providers shall provide the facilities and programs such as open or controlled dumps, sanitary landfills, hauling and collections, buy-back centers and other material recovery facilities, waste segregation, re-use and recycling plants, Erice said.

These providers would charge residents and business establishment fees for the service.

Erice reasoned out that the privatization would be more efficient because the service providers shall be liable for their failure to collect wastes and that citizens could not sue the government for non-collection of garbage.

Police appeal to hit-and-run driver to surrender

POLICE yesterday appealed to the unidentified jeepney driver who accidentally ran over and killed a pedestrian in Pasig City last Monday night to surrender and face the consequences of his act.

Police identified the hit-and-run victim as Ludy Rabe, 42, a resident of Ramos Village, Rosario, Pasig City.

Rabe was pronounced dead on arrival at the Pasig City General Hospital.

Rabe was run over by a jeep with plate number DJK 281. Records at the local Land Transportation Office showed that the vehicle is owned by a Carmelita Ayala, of Taytay, Rizal.

Investigation showed that the accident happened about 7:30 p.m. along the West Bank Road in Barangay Rosario, just a few meters away from the entrance gate of Ramos Village, while Rabe was on his way home.

SPO3 Alex Galang, Pasig City police traffic station investigator, said Rabe was crossing the street when the jeep hit him. Galang added that after the accident, the driver, instead of trying to help the victim, escaped.

Galang said witnesses brought Rabe to the hospital.

"It would be better for him to surrender and face the consequences of his recklessness than carry his guilt forever," Galang said of the driver. *Nelson F. Flores*

Failing to win, Pacquiao scores a bigger triumph

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LET it not be said that Manny Pacquiao was not sufficiently warned about his last foe. He was. But Pacquiao had never thought his opponent would check in dirtier than earlier advertised.

It was too late. When the Filipino boxing sensation realized that Agapito Sanchez of the Dominican Republic did not know a strand about honor and decency, damage had already been inflicted.

In the second round alone, Pacquiao, after being fouled and gored, suffered a big, bloody slash on the right brow that next glared at the cameras like a gory, misplaced third eye.

But it was just the start of the most vicious display of foulness by a crook that had been mistakenly allowed to wear a boxing crown.

Knowledgeable ringsiders were right. Sanchez, the WBO 122-lb champion, had succeeded in authoring what could go down as the most evil-infested six rounds in recent boxing history.

* * *

Pacquiao had clearly won on points, **but the title unification bout ended, horribly, in a draw.**

Naturally, the instant cry was for a dollar-rich rematch.

Manila fight fans, among the most avid in the world, would definitely come running to such a rematch that should also break gate records here.

It's what you may call a warmonger's dream, a fistic festival for the blood-thirsty, the *diniguan* brigade who swears that a boxing bout is not worth it minus the savage stoppage, or without crimson sauce spilling on the canvas.

Well, sorry Godzilla. See you later Mr. Dracula.

There will be no Pacquiao-Sanchez rematch. That's the final word from Pacquiao's very displeased handlers.

* * *

As expected, one famous fight man, Hermie Rivera, was singularly relieved upon learning of this latest development.

If they had pushed for the rematch, reminded Hermie who was last seen packing his bags to join his dear grandchildren for the holidays in California, it would do Pacquiao a lot of good if he also took out insurance for his ears.

Explained Hermie: "That bum Agapito Sanchez had done all the dirty tricks in that bout. The only crime he had not committed was bite off his opponent's ear, and he would certainly do that if they allowed a rematch."

Pacquiao could get better fish to fry, insisted one of his backers.

So stop dreaming of that colorful dollar-rich rematch.

We have had enough evil and terrorism around us.

* * *

In the first place, wouldn't giving Sanchez another shot at Pacquiao be tantamount to encouraging criminality, the way Malacañang gods do it by blindly honoring police and military officials who have awfully become the laughingstock of killers and kidnappers all over our islands?

So that's it. Pacquiao, our only reigning world boxing titlist, takes a two-month forced break to let the wounds, the sprains, heal.

After that, he would be set up for the next defense the IBF super bantamweight crown in the USA, possibly in March.

At least, in that San Francisco fight, Pacquiao also did not fall another victim to the mad designs of the fight referee.

The way he mishandled the fight, it became clear that Martin Denkin — his name was fittingly misspelled Jenkin here last time — was also out to do Pacquiao in, the way he had frustrated Gerry Peñalosa's title try against Korean In Joo-cho in January 2000.

This reporter was at ringside when Denkin took a point from Peñalosa after Cho fell on a sleek portion of the canvas close to the Filipino fighter's corner.

Denkin also played it blind and instead ruled it a simple slip after Peñalosa felled Cho with a staggering blow to the stomach.

How the WBO had succeeded in pushing the highly inept Denkin into the San Francisco title fight should also explain why this world boxing body had reared champs of Sanchez's diabolic caliber.

* * *

OK, Pacquiao failed to win the poorly scored bout. Just the same, he was to return home doubly triumphant from California last night.

Pacquiao did allow himself to be tense; he let out a few wild punches. But what was most significant was his display of commendable composure in foul, very trying moments.

If Pacquiao had, say, elected to box dirty as Sanchez had done, it would have been equal to staying in the mud with someone who had, by his abominable behavior, obviously been raised in a pig sty.

Strictly speaking, all the evil unleashed in that San Francisco bout, not to mention the on-ring terrorism suffered by Gerry Peñalosa in Yokohama the other month, should lead world authorities to again review the rules of boxing.

One more thing: It would be supremely fallacious to suggest that Manny Pacquiao had disqualified himself from the Sportsman of the Year race after his failure to win in California.

The poise and class he displayed against evil should make Pacquiao doubly qualified to be our finest sportsman in these troubled times.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 14, 2001
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Wis 6:1-11**
Gospel: **Lk 17:11-19**

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was passing along the border between Samaria and Galilee, and as he entered a village, ten lepers came to meet him. Keeping their distance, they called to him, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" Then Jesus said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." Now, as they went their way, they found they were cured. One of them, as soon as he saw he was cleansed, turned back praising God in a loud voice, and throwing himself on his face before Jesus, he gave him thanks. This man was a Samaritan.

Was no one found to return and give praise to God but this alien?" And Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go your way; your faith has saved you."

Commentary

During Jesus' time, the lepers were not allowed to live with others in the city. They had to live outside its walls, excommunicated from social life. This was because they were considered carriers of sin, and leprosy was the punishment. Sin was believed to be contagious, and sinners had to be avoided. Ten lepers, nine Jews and one Samaritan, were together. The Samaritan was also discriminated against because he was a foreigner of different belief. Here among sinners, there was no segregation. The lepers cried out to Jesus as he was approaching them. After hearing their prayer for mercy and healing them, Jesus told them to show themselves to the priest. It was the priest who had the authority to reinstate them to normal social life.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Genuine Issue—A genuine issue us an issue of fact which requires the presentation of evidence as distinguished from a sham, fictitious, contrived or false claim. When the facts as pleaded appear uncontested or undisputed, then there is no real or genuine issue or question as to the facts, and summary judgment is called for. The party who moves for summary judgment has the burden of demonstrating clearly the absence of any genuine issue of fact, or that the issue posed in the complaint is patently unsubstantial so as not to constitute a genuine issue for trial. Trial courts have limited authority to render summary judgments and may do so only when there is clearly no genuine issue as to any material fact. When the facts as pleaded by the parties are disputed or contested, proceedings for summary judgement cannot take the place of trial. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Evadel Realty and Development Corporation v. Spouses Soriano, G.R. No. 144291, April 20, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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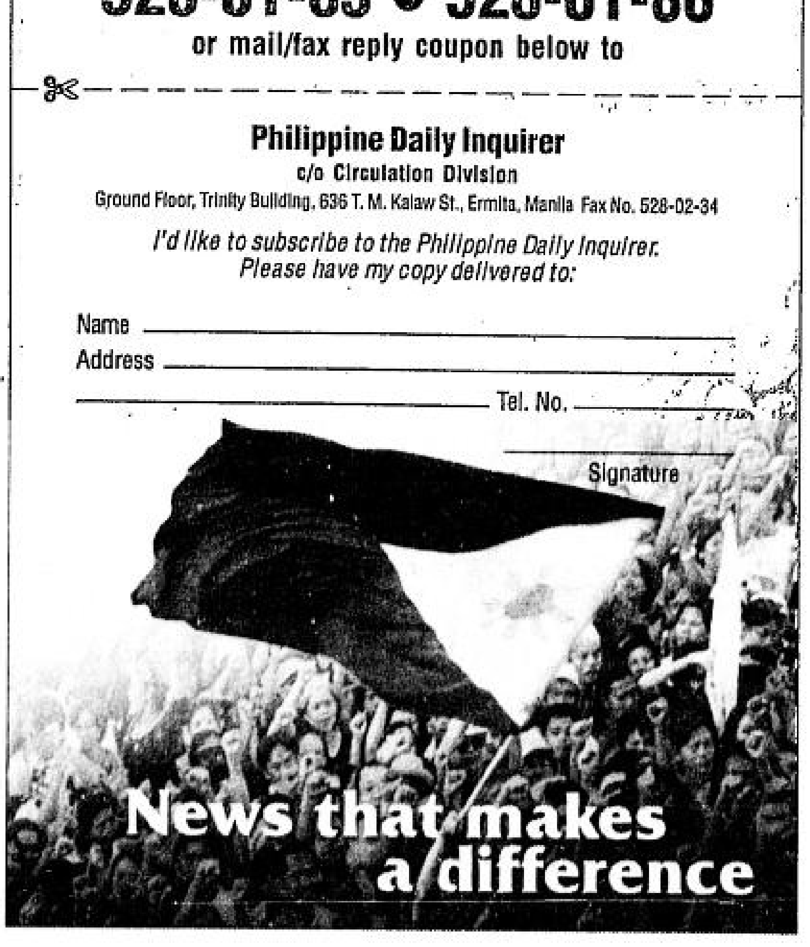
News that makes a difference

BJMP ex-chief probed for extortion

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman for the Military has placed Senior Supt. Josue G. Engaño, former head of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, under investigation for allegedly extorting money from jail wardens and mess officers in Metro Manila.

Engaño is also accused of involvement in the alleged misuse of subsistence allowances for prisoners.

"I have not seen the complaint yet," said Deputy Ombudsman for the Military Orlando Casimiro. "But once a case is filed, it is immediately acted upon." He said lawyer Rudiger Falcis II of the Ombudsman Investigation, Prosecution and Administrative Adjudication Bureau started investigating the charges on Monday.

BJMP officials led by Senior Supt. Vicente Encarnacion, assistant regional director of the BJMP-National Capital Region, charged Engaño with graft for allegedly extorting money from his subordinates.

Encarnacion said Engaño was trying to exact money from them as part of his bid to regain control of the BJMP over his closest rival, Chief Supt. Arturo W. Alit.

Encarnacion said that on several occasions last month, Engaño, "claiming to be the chief of the BJMP, tried and successfully extort(ed) money from jail warden and mess officers assigned within the National Capital Region."

Encarnacion said Engaño's acts were a "clear manifestation and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act."

Encarnacion submitted affidavits executed by jail wardens Supt. Augusto R. Retumban of Pasay City, Chief Insp. Teofilo V. Labating of Caloocan City and Chief Insp. Romeo S. Elisan of Valenzuela City, and mess officer SJO2 Danilo A. Abuda of the Quezon City Jail.

The alleged extortion happened when Engaño allegedly called up the officials and asked them to shell out money purportedly to bankroll his bid to regain permanent appointment as BJMP chief.

Abuda claimed Engaño collected some P160,000 from him, which was part of the subsistence allowance for inmates.

Abuda said that on Oct. 6 Quezon City jail warden Primitivo Benitez asked him to deliver P30,000 to Engaño's office on Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City. This happened thrice, according to Abuda.

Retumban, Labating and Elisan claimed Engano asked them to raise money. They, however, refused, they said.

The Engaño-Alit rift started when President Macapagal appointed Engaño as BJMP chief, replacing Alit who had replaced (Ret.) General Aquilino Jacob.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina asked the President to reconsider the appointment since he said Engano was not allegedly qualified to occupy the post.

Alit then filed a quo warranto case with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court questioning Engaño's appointment.

On Oct. 6, Quezon City Judge Modesto C. Juanson issued a 20-day temporary restraining order to prevent Engaño from occupying his post. He also directed Lina to occupy the post in a concurrent capacity "until the legal impasse" was resolved.

Juanson on Oct. 29 declared Engaño's appointment as illegal.

In his ruling, Juanson said a field officer of the Civil Service Commission testified that Engaño does not have a career executive service Officer eligibility and is not a one-star rank general.

The following day, the Court of Appeals issued a belated order stopping the QC RTC from acting on the quo warranto case.

Subsequently, Lina issued a memorandum declaring himself as the BJMP chief.

This prompted Engaño to ask the CA to restrain Lina from assuming the post, which the appellate court junked.

A hearing to resolve the controversy has been scheduled for Dec. 4.

Dead bomb maker cleared

By Philip C. Tubeza

SUSPECTED bomb maker Henry Hidalgo had nothing to do with the bloody Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said his men's initial findings showed that the 38-year-old suspect who was killed in an explosion in Muntinlupa last week was not the elusive Col. Efren Torres, one of those behind the bloody bomb attacks that rocked Metro Manila on Rizal Day last year.

"Hidalgo did not look like Torres," Wycoco said, adding that the NBI's sketch of Torres' face did not match Hidalgo's features.

Hidalgo, 38, a resident of Jade Heights, Victoria Homes, Barangay Tunasan, Muntinlupa, died on Nov. 5 in an explosion that ripped through his rented house just as he was reportedly assembling explosives.

Inside his house, the police found 10 to 20 kilos of powder used in making bombs, an improvised timing device and empty .9 mm pistol shells.

Authorities also recovered a receipt for the powder, which showed it was bought before Dec. 30 last year.

Wycoco said he has ordered Efren Meneses Jr., head of the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division, to coordinate with the Muntinlupa police in checking on Hidalgo's background.

Witnesses to the Dec. 30 bombings now in the custody of the NBI claimed they did not recognize the picture of the suspected bomb maker when it was shown to them, Wycoco said.

"We're now following up other leads to shed more light on who was really behind the bombings," he said.

Col. Torres acted as the middleman between the alleged recruiter of the bombers, and the bombing's masterminds.

Torres, an alleged police superintendent based in Rizal, was said to have acted as the middleman between the mastermind and Jimmy Arinday, the alleged recruiter of the men who planted the bombs, Wycoco said.

The NBI identified eight persons who were allegedly involved in the bombings. Besides Arinday and Torres, the others are Hadji Onos, Amir Dimaampo, Salvin Camama, Ibrahim Guindolongan, Roberto Onyot and Rogelio Cagadas.

The December 30 bomb attacks killed 22 people and injured 96 others.

Bombs exploded at the LRT Blumentritt station and Plaza Ferguson in front of the US Embassy, both in Manila; NAIA Air Cargo Parking Lot A in Pasay City; Petron gas station on Edsa corner Pasay Road in Makati City; and on board an Edsan bus liner in Cubao, Quezon City.

Both Arinday and Torres were reportedly trained in handling explosives by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from 1982 to 1985.

The other six suspects were recruited from Mindanao to go to Manila to join the anti-Estrada rallies at the height of the impeachment trial last year.

The group reportedly stayed at a motel in Quiapo, Manila, a few days before the bombings.

A witness claimed that four days before the incident, Arinday and Torres delivered "black powder" to be used in making the bombs.

On Dec. 27, the Presidential Security Group arrested one of the group's members, Elmer Diamla, for carrying an improvised bomb into Malacañang.

Critics of the Estrada administration claimed the bombings were carried out to divert public attention from the impeachment trial.

But the NBI has since confirmed that the terror blitz was really meant to destabilize the previous administration.

PUZZLED AND PROTESTING
Protecting herself from the rain with a plastic sheet, a seemingly puzzled young girl is part of the picket in front of the human rights commission building in Quezon City. The demonstrators are protesting militarization in Mangyan communities in Mindoro province.
JOAN BONDOC

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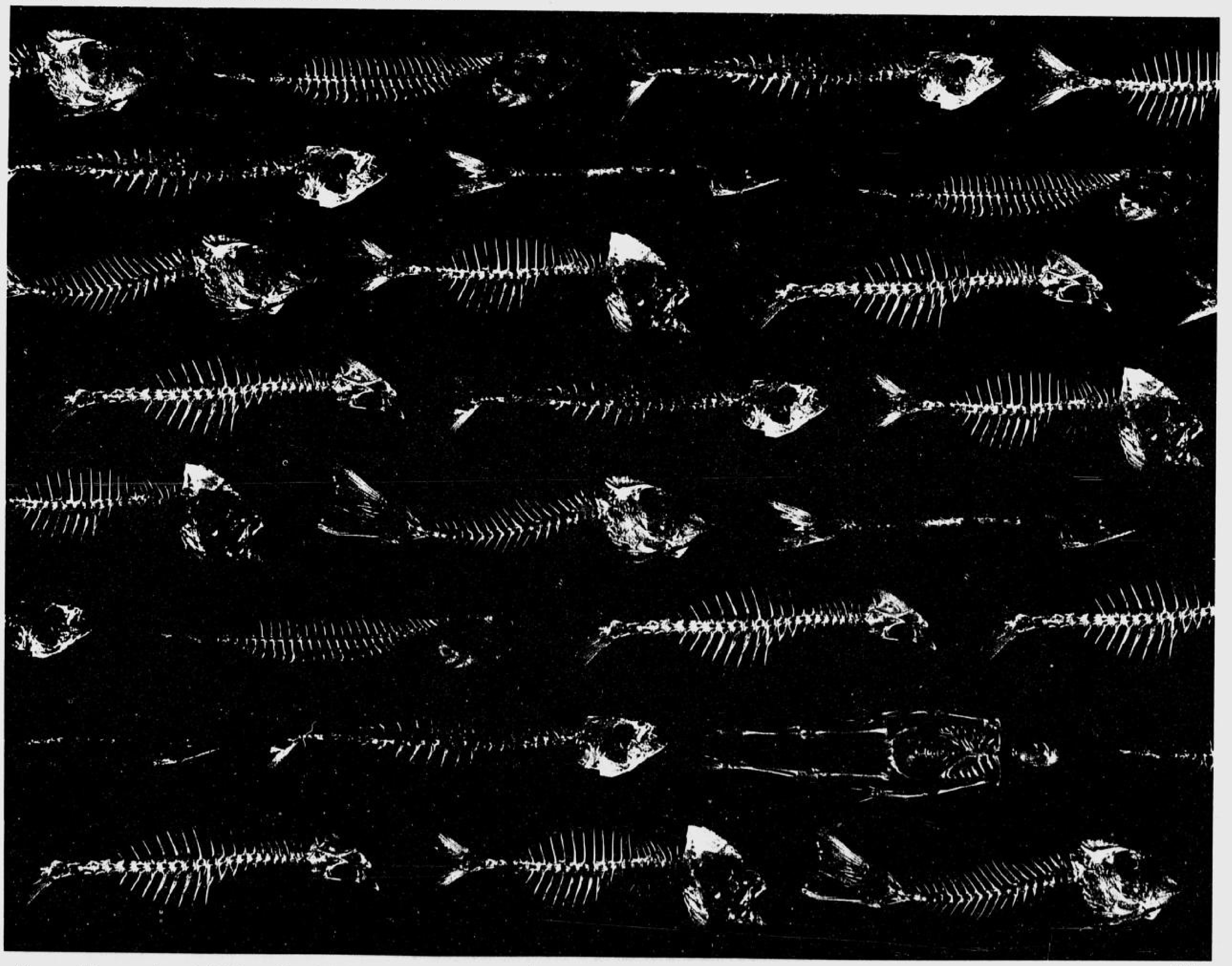

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1	TRIP
2	JOY RIDE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	SERENDIPITY
6	THE ONE
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	JOY RIDE

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	TRIP

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	
2	TRIP
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	
A	

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	
4	THE ONE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	TRIP
5	BUBBLE BOY
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7 (DTS)	CART. CORRELLIS
8 (SDDS)	THE ONE
9 (DOLBY)	JOY RIDE

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	TRIP
3	SERENDIPITY
4 (SDDS)	JOY RIDE
5	WEYT A MINIT
6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
7 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLIS
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?
9	WEYT A MINIT

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	KING OF GLADIATOR
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	JOY RIDE
5 (SDDS)	THE ONE
6	WEYT A MINIT
7 (DOLBY)	BUBBLE BOY
8	TRIP

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLES
4	TRIP
5 (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Sampaquita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	ANO BANG MERON KA ?
Lords	MEDUSA
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	THE ONE

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	THE ONE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	

Berma tel 879.2029

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	JOY RIDE
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TRIP
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TRIP
2 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLES
4	WEYT A MINIT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLES
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT
4	TRIP

Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	TRIP
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE ONE
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT
4 (DTS)	TRIP

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLES
4	TRIP
5	THE ONE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	CAPT. CORRELLES

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	CAPT. CORRELLES

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	
2	
3	

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	CAPT. CORRELLES
3	TRIP

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 (DTS)	TRIP

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	JEEPERS CREEPERS
2	TRIP
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	TRAINING DAY

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE ONE
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT
4 (DTS ES)	

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4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS
6	AMERICAN PIE 2
7	TRAINING DAY
8	LEGALLY BLONDE
9	DOWN TO EARTH
10	GHOST OF MARS

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	THE ONE
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	TRIP
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	DON'T SAY A WORD

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	TRIP
4	THE ONE
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	THE ONE

IMUS (046) 471-6188

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	TRAINING DAY
3	DOS EKIS
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	THE BODY
6	JAY & SILENT BOB STRIKES

SOON TO OPEN
METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DOS EKIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TRIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	THE ONE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	NAG AAPOY NA LAMAN / TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ODEON	JOY RIDE
ODEON-2	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
ROBEN	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KISS OF THE DRAGON / SPOT
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
REMAR	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
REMAR-2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	WEYT A MINIT
B	ANO BANG MERON KA?
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE ONE
CINEMA-2	BUBBLE BOY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-6401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
CINEMA-6	TRIP
CINEMA-7	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-8	WEYT A MINIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLIS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-12	THE ONE
CINEMA-14	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-15	WEYT A MINIT
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-2	DOWN TO EARTH
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-5	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-6	THE ONE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

JAVIER. Sings the hits of Jennifer Lopez

Patricia stages solo concert

SHE started making a name for herself by capitalizing on her sultry looks and figure. Her career has traced a dizzying climb to the top, marked by her transformation from one of the silver screen's sexiest stars into a dramatic actress.

She is now playing the lead role in "Kirara," a poular daytime soap series on GMA 7.

Her dynamism and multifaceted persona distinguish Patricia Javier from the plethora of "sexy" stars that have become a trend lately.

Now being managed by Jessica Rodriguez-Bunevacz, a well-known figure in the world of talent management, Patricia seems poised to take the entertainment world by storm, dazzling them anew with sides of her that people never seem to expect from her.

She is set to leave her audience breathless as she showcases her dynamic yet sultry singing voice in a solo show, Nov. 15, 9 p.m. at Dish, 3rd Level of Rockwell's Power Plant Mall.

Patricia will belt out hits ranging from the '70s to songs by Jennifer Lopez in the one-and-a-half-hour show. She will be accompanied by the music of leading retro band Mulatto.

A production of the JLF Organization and Bax's Artist Management, the concert is presented by Hartman and Shell, with Banco Filipino.

For inquiries, call 634-7776 or 638-4243-44.

VAN DYK

German DJ in Manila

NATURAL Born Klubbers (NBK) with the support of Smart Zed, brings back Germany's premier electronic artist and DJ Paul van Dyk, in an exclusive performance at 10 p.m. on Nov. 16 at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater (across the street from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport terminal 1).

Warming up the party with his own brand of progressive and Latin house music is top local DJ, Manolet Dario.

Van Dyk has released a best-selling album which contains such club classics as "Forbidden Fruit," "Another Way" and "For an Angel." It is distributed locally by Universal Records.

LINA WARNS BARANGAY HEADS

Clearances only, not business permits

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. yesterday called on all Metro Manila mayors to look into reports that barangay officials allegedly issued permits to illegal vendors and maintainers of illegal terminals which have caused traffic congestion.

Lina reminded the local chief executives that the authority of barangay officials is limited to the issuance of barangay clearances and not business permits.

"A mayor's permit or permit to operate is basically issued by the office of the mayor although a barangay clearance may be required for the issuance of the said permit," Lina explained.

He directed DILG National Capital Region (NCR) director Serafin Benaldo to coordinate with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) as well as with the city and municipal mayors to address the growing problem of illegal vendors and illegal terminals.

Lina's move was in response to the MMDA call for assistance in dealing with some Metro Manila barangay officials and policemen who allegedly protect illegal vendors and maintainers of illegal terminals.

Lina requested the Philippine National Police chief, Director General Leandro Mendoza, to call the attention of the NCR Police Office and police district directors about policemen's alleged involvement in the illegal activity.

Lina also reminded the MMDA that under the law, the agency has the authority to deal with the problem.

"But we will closely coordinate with the MMDA and with the concerned city and municipal governments to effectively address the problem," Lina added.

ERIK ARAZAS

BOY WHO NEEDS BLOOD
This is Joshua Dacanay, 3, who is suffering from leukemia and whose story was featured in this section on Nov. 12. Joshua, who needs blood and chemotherapy, is at Bed 32 of Ward 9 at the Philippine General Hospital. His parents may be contacted at 0918-7888-336.

Early benefits for Manila City Hall employees

THE BENEFITS for Manila city government workers will be released early, according to Mayor Lito Atienza.

Atienza said that on Nov. 15, each city government employee would receive a cash gift of P5,000 and the balance of their 13th month pay. The clothing allowance of P4,000 per employee and the productivity incentive for the last two quarters of the year amounting to P6,000 per employee would be released on Dec. 15.

The first half of the 13th month pay was released last June.

" We want city government employees to have the means to celebrate Christmas with their loved ones," Atienza said in a statement.

He said he directed city treasurer Liberty Toledo to make sure the benefits would be released to city employees on the dates he indicated.

MMDA conducting travel time study

HOW much time will it take for you to get from one Christmas party to another this December? The Metro Manila Development Authority is going to find out.

Since the Christmas season means traffic in the metropolis, the MMDA is preparing for the expected heavy traffic in major thoroughfares.

The MMDA is now conducting a 24-hour survey on "Travel Time and Delay."

While the MMDA has been conducting the survey for the past few years now, this time it utilizes 24 surveyors working round the clock.

The surveyors will determine and report the changes in traffic flow in all major streets in Metro Manila.

Through the travel time delay survey, the MMDA can identify the intersections where traffic flow is heavy, even without the on-the-spot report of deputized traffic enforcers.

Through the survey, the MMDA hopes to determine any increase or decrease in the travel time from the last survey period. An increase in travel speed means the traffic management measures instituted by the agency are working.

The MMDA said that from July to November this year, there was an increase of 10 percent in travel speed between destinations.

According to the latest MMDA Traffic Operations Center traffic plan, an intensified survey will be conducted during November and December. Travel speed is expected to decrease this Christmas due to the expected high volume of people and vehicles on the streets.

As part of the MMDA'S preparations for the traffic gridlock in major roads, particularly the 20-kilometer stretch of Edsa that traverses the cities of Pasay, Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Quezon City and Caloocan City, thousands of traffic enforcers will be fielded in an effort to maintain the smooth flow of traffic.

MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the survey is also part of the plan to improve the flow of traffic in the metropolis.

Included in the plan is the installation of 20 closed circuit cameras at all major intersections of Metro Manila to spot traffic buildup and erring drivers.

Alcuin Papa

1-day passport service in Pasig

PASIG Mayor Soledad C. Eusebio is inviting the city's residents to avail themselves of the one-day passporting service, a joint project of the city government and the Department of Foreign Affairs, at the Pasig City Sports Complex on Saturday, Nov. 17.

"All Pasig residents who are applying for passports, whether new or for renewal, may bring their documents to the sports complex starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday for fast processing," Eusebio said.

The project is expected to benefit overseas Filipino workers, including entertainers, as well as businessmen and professionals who do not have the time to go to the DFA.

Staff members from the DFA, the Office of Consular Affairs and the city government will assist the residents.

Eusebio said the project is in line with the thrust of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to speed up the processing of government documents.

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Celebrate Christmas and give her and your loved ones the gifts that offer year-round convenience and ease.
National Kitchen and Convenience Items -- the perfect Holiday offering. National's premium line of cooking, cleaning products and electric fans designed to make lives at home simpler and lighter.

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See posters for details.
Per DTI-NCR permit no.3604 series of 2001.
www.mepco.panasonic.com.ph

Cinema One pays tribute to Nida Blanca

IN a sincere tribute to legendary actress and movie icon Nida Blanca, Cinema One will showcase a variety of the late actress' movies, to be aired from Nov. 12 to 16, 10:30 p.m. Replays will start from Nov. 19 to 23 at 5:45 p.m.

In her 47 years in the local entertainment world since she started at 14, Nida Blanca (Dorothy Jones in real life) has established herself as one of the most revered and respected actresses. She first won a Famas best supporting actress award for her movie "Korea" in 1952. In the epic-drama produced by LVN Productions and directed by Lamberto V. Avellana, Nida played opposite Jaime de la Rosa.

From then on her career stratosphered. She became a box-office queen and a sought-after leading lady. She became mostly identified with her reel loveteam partner, Nestor de Villa, with whom she made more than a dozen movies.

Nida has been in 163 comedy, drama, horror and action shows. Her most popular TV stint was "John en Marsha," a comedy series which ran for 16 years where she became unforgettable as Marsha Puruntong, a devoted wife from a wealthy family who married a poor man, played by reigning comedy king Dolphy

In Cinema One's tribute, a rich roster of the actress' movies will be shown.

"Bato Bato sa Langit" with Nora Aunor and Christopher de Leon, directed by Chaning Carlos in 1975, airs Nov. 12.

The comedy flick "Anak ni Waray vs. Anak ni Biday," with Gloria Romero, Maricel Soriano and Snooky Serna, directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes, airs Nov. 13.

Nida stars with Richard Gomez in Peque Gallaga's "Kid, Huwag Kang Susuko," 1986. It will air Nov. 14.

Regal Films' "Sana Pag-Ibig Na," directed by Jeffrey Jeturian, airs Nov. 15.

"Miguelito, Ang Batang Rebelde," with Aga Muhlach, where Nida won her first best actress Award in 1985, airs Nov. 15.

Cinema One will also showcase "Babae," where Nida Blanca starred with Nora Aunor and young drama queen Judy Ann Santos on "Wednesday Winners," Nov. 21.

"Rewind Theater" will also feature a number of Nida Blanca's early movies in the '50s, from Nov. 26 to 30, 8 a.m.

Schedule: "Enteng Anting" on Nov. 26, "Adyang Waray" on Nov. 27, "Laff Story" on Nov. 28, "Public Enemy No. 2" with Robin Padilla on Nov. 29 and "Family Tree" on Nov. 30.

Cinema One is available on SkyCable, Home Cable, Sun Cable and other quality cable operators.

'Hype' nights at Where Else

WHERE Else, the club that has made R&B and hip-hop music in style again with its "Hype" nights every Wednesday, gives fans another reason to celebrate.

Where Else brings in world-renowned hip-hop DJ Icy Ice to perform tonight.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Icy Ice is a Filipino-American that has made his mark in the music industry through persistence and talent.

Known for his sonically masterful collages of hip-hop and R&B, DJ Icy Ice is a founding member of the world famous Beat Junkies and has revolutionized LA hip-hop by giving it flavor all its own.

A mainstay of the LA radio scene, DJ Icy Ice has a show which is syndicated to over 300 different radio stations across the United States.

He has toured all over the US, Japan and the Philippines.

To top his credentials, he is also the official DJ for the home games of the WNBA LA Sparks.

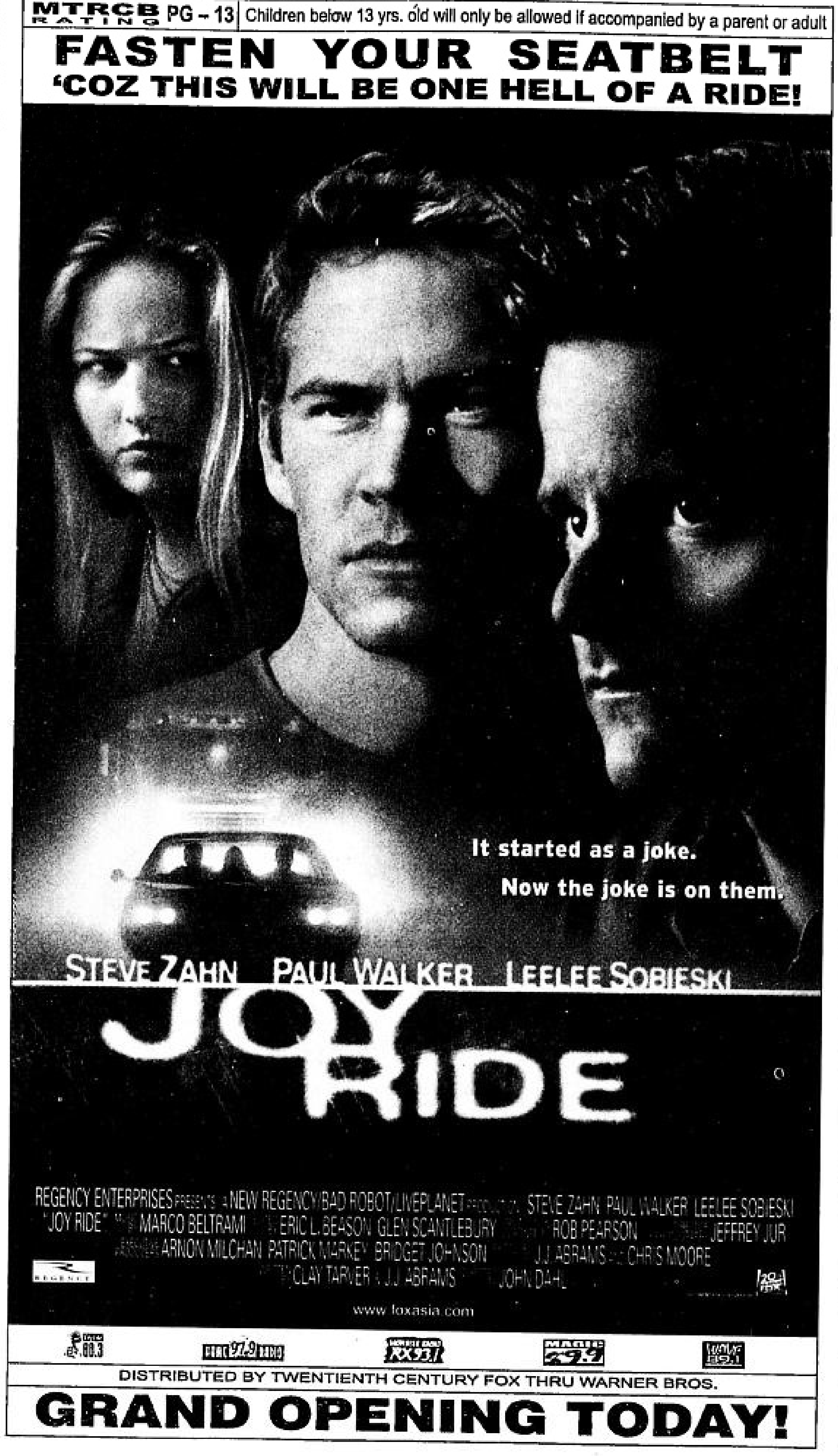
Where Else promises to give all R&B aficionados an awesome time with 63 Squad opening the event at 10 tonight, followed by the "Hype" dance contest and DJ Icy Ice's set at midnight. He will be accompanied by his American partner, Lucky Lou, who will be the emcee for the night.

DJ Icy Ice at Where Else is presented by Fubu, Ericsson, Mentos and Myx.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JEEPERS CREEPERS - R - 18 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	DOWN TO EARTH - P 13 11:40, 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	LEGALLY BLONDE - P 13 11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10
DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	TRAINING DAY - R 18 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	THE ONE - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings. Free Seating.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A Film by MARYO J. DELOS REYES, DGPI
Executive Producer LILY MONTEVERDE
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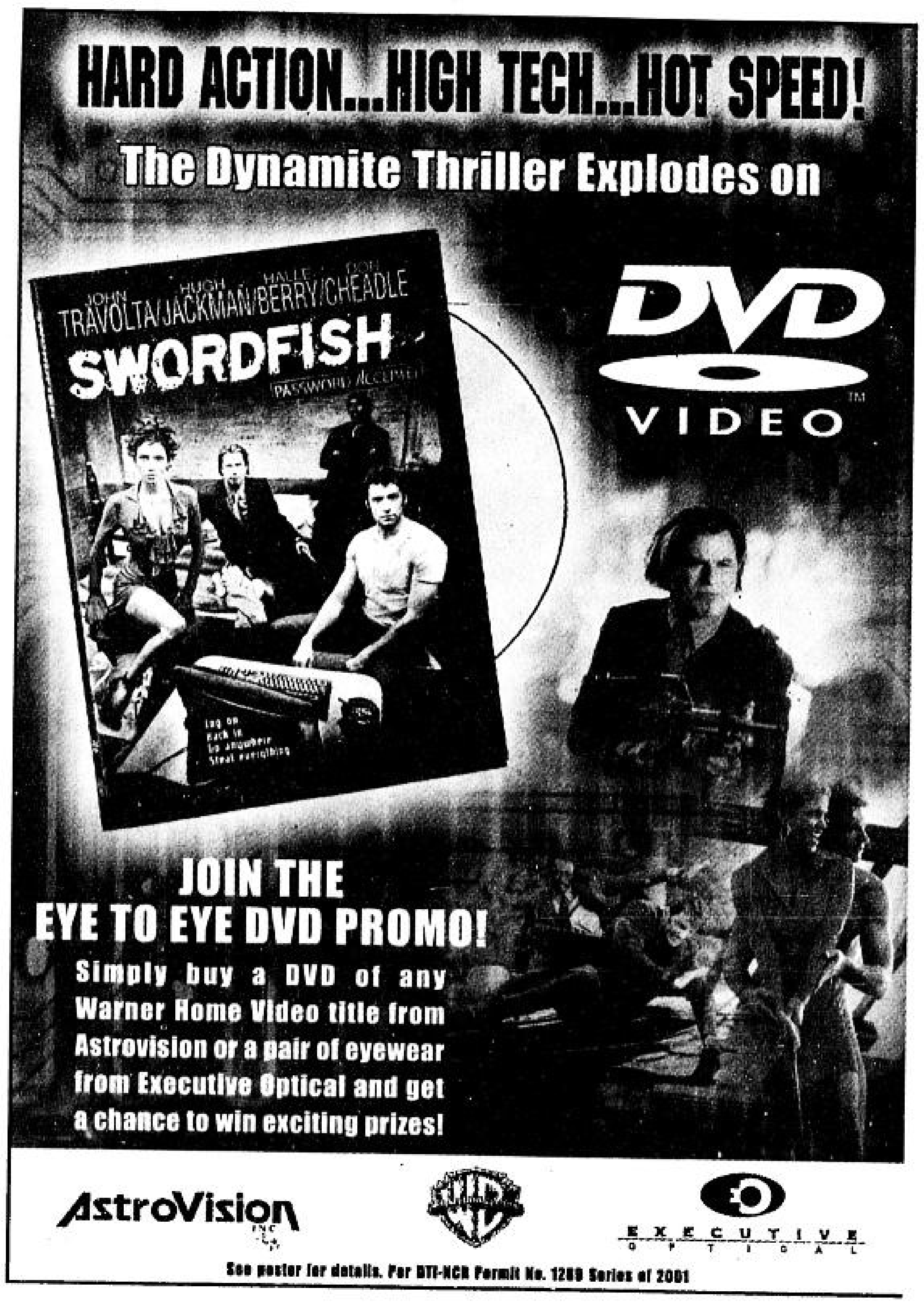
LOVE RADIO 90.7

Join the fun and easy SMS game that will challenge your knowledge of trivia about Joyce, Diether and "Ano Bang Meron Ka?" To start, text **ANO** and send to 288 (for TALK N' TEXT with zed subscribers). Promo period: October 26 - November 26, 2001. For complete contest details, log on to www.femalenetwork.com/ano. Per DTI NCR Permit # 3610 Series of 2001.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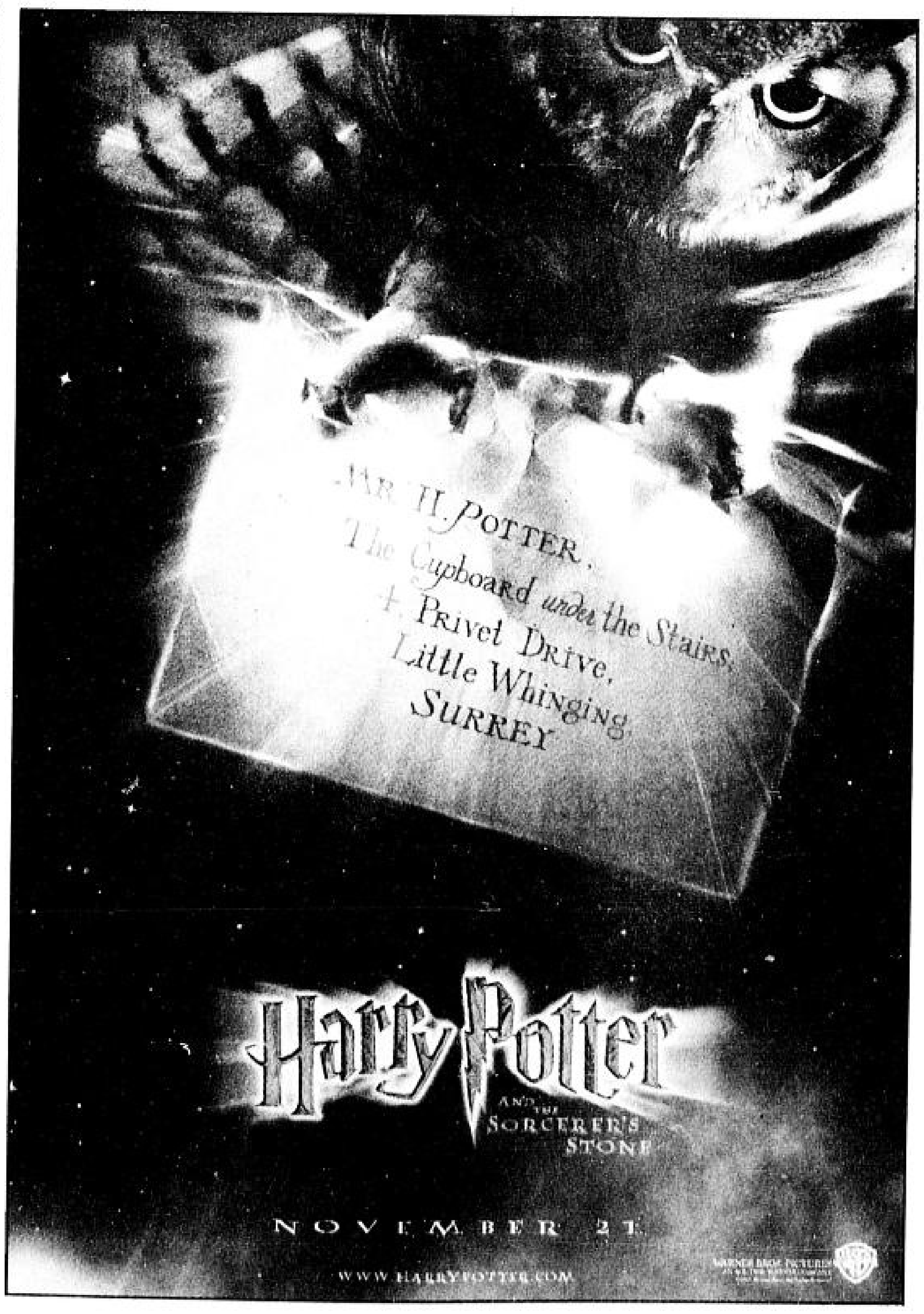
See poster for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1289 Series of 2001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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: What is the president's main purpose for her trip to Indonesia?

. Cohost: As per the briefing we got before her departure, it's to firm up the joint cooperation of our two countries in the fight against terrorism, smuggling and fisheries.

(Duh!)

***

Host: Aside from concerts and recordings, I hear you sing for charities and benefits. Can you tell us more about this?

Singer: Oh, yes—for example, *kumakanta rin ako ng kanta* for children *na naglelabor*!

(You perform, the kids deliver?)

***

Host: I know you have a crush on your costar. What would you like to say to her—about her beauty, what she means to you, things like that?

Male star: You are the light that shines on my life, like the moon in the night sky! And, even if there is no moon, it's OK, *kasi ang daming buwan sa mukha mo*!

(That's supposed to be a compliment?!)

***

Host: What are the problems in running an office canteen?

Guest: One thing, you don't know how many real diners you will have everyday!

(As opposed to fake ones?)

***

Host: Other problems?

Guest: Because it fluctuates, you have to cook more than enough food for their consume!

(We think we know what you mean . . .)

***

Host: What's the latest on this year's most celebrated murder case?

Cohost: I heard, the friends of the victim are collecting donations for a fund for the arrest of the thriller.

(What "thriller?")

***

Host: What did your manager say when you told him that you wanted to drop his services?

Starlet: Nothing. He just looked at me.

Host: How did he look?—Angry? Apologetic?

Starlet: He had an unprintable face!

(Wheee!)

Viva at 20

THE VIVA Entertainment Group is celebrating its 20th anniversary in a big way this month. It has two new films showing—this week, it's "Weyt a Minit, Kapeng Mainit" with **Janno Gibbs** and **Blakdyak**, and on the last week of November, it's **Sharon Cuneta**'s comeback film, "Pagdating ng Panahon," with **Robin Padilla.**

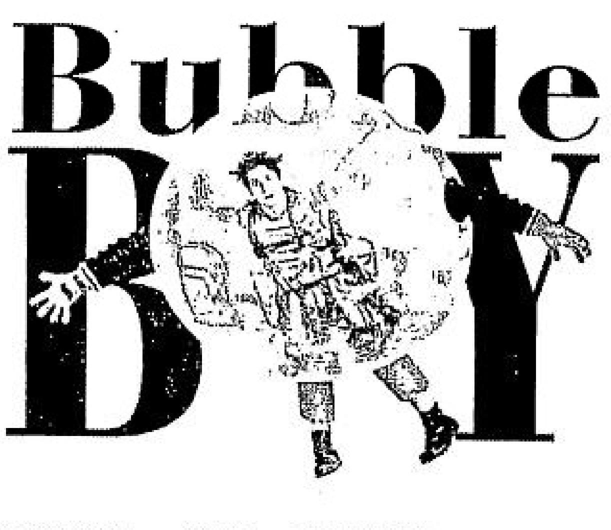
The Sharon-Robin tandem's reunion movie is directed by **Joyce Bernal** and also stars **Rufa Mae Quinto** and **Amy Austria.**

Next month, Viva will field the period drama, "Tatarin," in the Metro Manila Film Festival. The film based on **Nick Joaquin**'s play is directed by **Tikoy Aguiluz** and topbills **Dina Bonnevie, Edu Manzano** and **Rica Peralejo.**

Meanwhile, Viva Records is lining up live recordings by its roster of artists, including **Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha** and Freestyle, as well as a new album by **Ogie Alcasid.**

From Viva Video comes the new animated film, "The Book of (Winnie the) Pooh, stories from the Heart," the classic "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (to be released for the first time on DVD), "Pearl Harbor," "Moulin Rouge" and the new "Planet of the Apes."

As for Viva TV, it has rocked the local television scene with the unprecedented success of its hit quiz show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," which marked its first anniversary last Nov. 13 and its follow-up program, "The Weakest Link."



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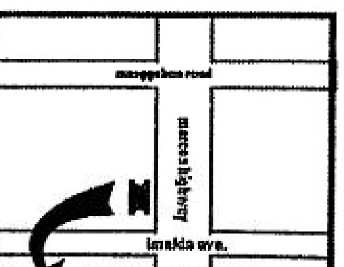

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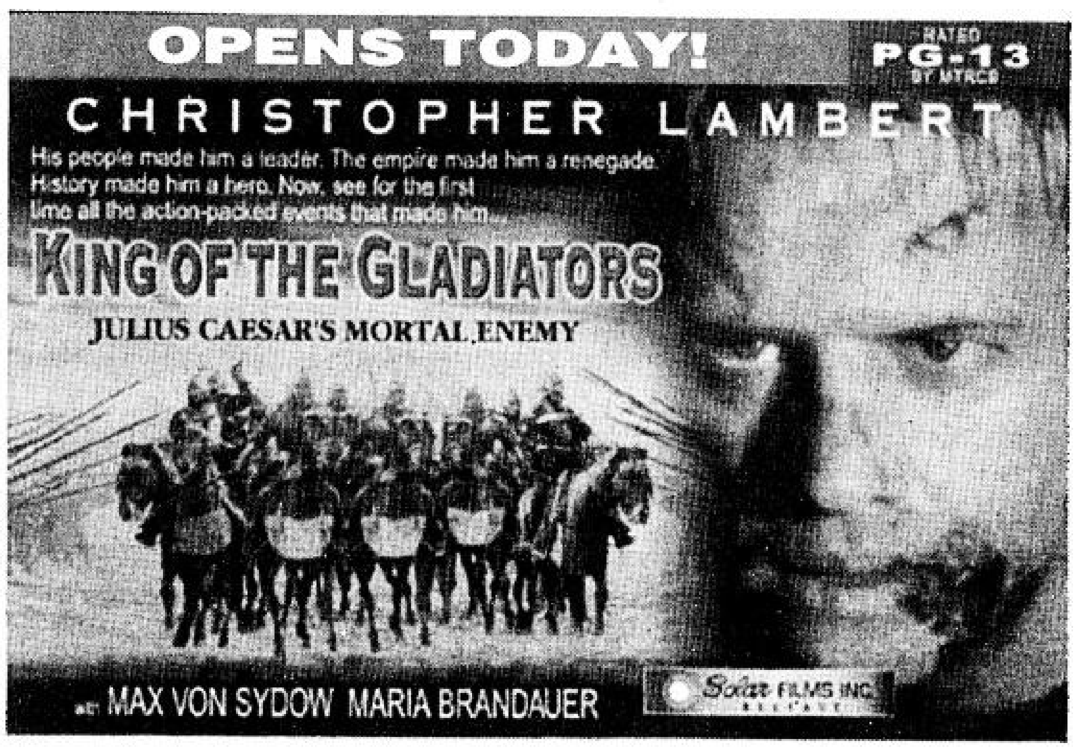
The hero is Gabe, a sheriff deputy. He must thwart his predator Yulaw, an evil agent in a parallel universe who gains super power and strength with every alternate self he destroys. Gabe is his ultimate prey.

"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

NOW SHOWING



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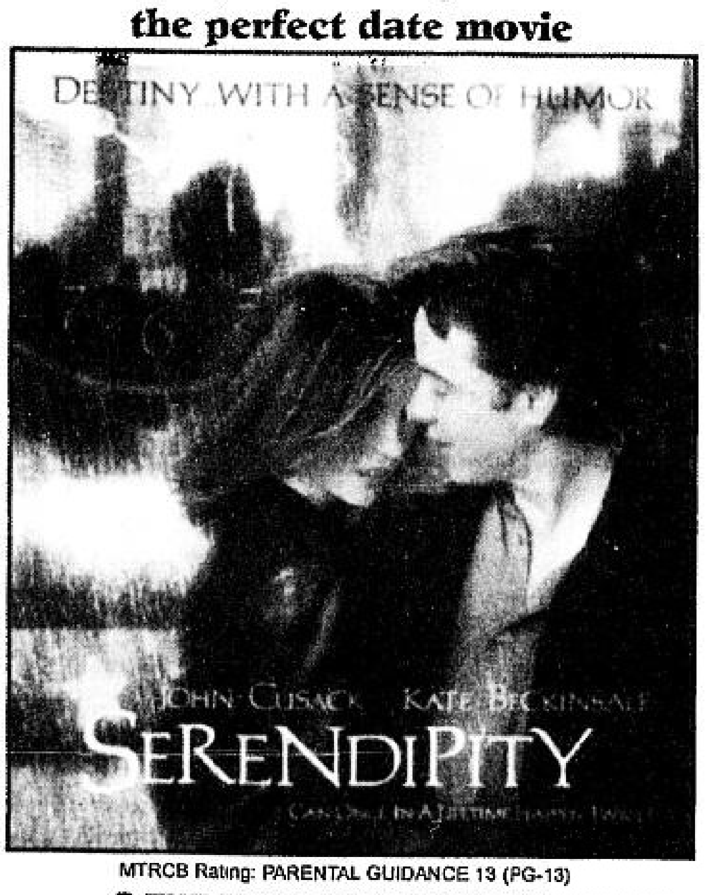

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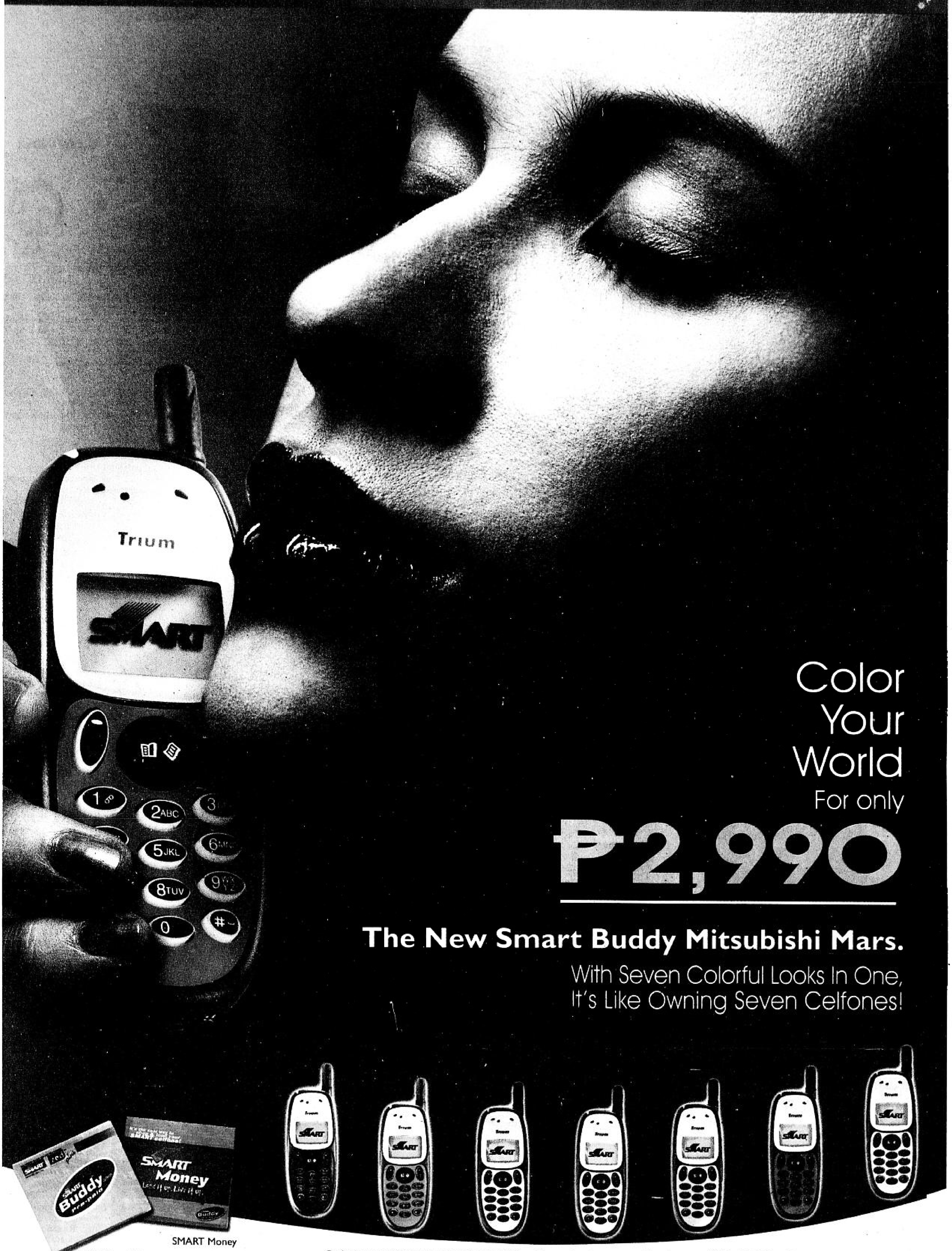

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Ayala Land offers to buy Boni stake

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PREMIER property developer Ayala Land Inc. has submitted a binding offer to buy out debt-ridden Metro Pacific Corp. from Bonifacio Land Corp., developer of the 150-hectare crown jewel Fort Bonifacio Global City.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ALI vice president and comptroller Jaime Ysmael said the company had formally made an offer to acquire all of the interests held by MPC and/or its Hong Kong-based parent company First Pacific Co. Ltd. in BLC.

The INQUIRER earlier reported that ALI, MPC's stiffest rival when state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority bid out the development rights to the Fort Bonifacio property in 1995, was keen on taking over the project.

If consummated, a deal with MPC would give the Ayala group a second chance to take over the premier property after losing out to the MPC-led consortium in 1995.

Industry sources said MPC was under pressure to present its options to First Pacific, which had earlier provided a $90-million bridge financing to service BLC's bond obligations.

"The binding offer of ALI is subject to the fulfillment of certain terms and conditions and the satisfactory completion of financial, technical and legal due-diligence audits to be conducted by ALI and its authorized representatives," Ysmael said.

"ALI's offer takes into account the settlement of certain obligations incurred by MPC under mutually acceptable terms and conditions," he added.

MPC is saddled with about P18 billion in debts to different banks, part of which is maturing by the first quarter of 2001.

Ysmael said ALI's offer would expire on Nov. 19, which means that MPC would have to come up with a decision very soon.

"In the event that ALI's offer is accepted, ALI may form a holding company which will hold the investment in BLC shares and invite third parties to participate in such holding company," he said.

ING Barings, which was tapped by MPC as its financial adviser to evaluate its options on Fort Bonifacio, is likewise talking to other interested parties and has welcomed any creative offer.

AYALA offer seen to stimulate development of vast Bonifacio property.

MPC controls 69.6 percent of BLC which, in turn, has a 55-percent stake in Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the joint venture company formed with BCDA to develop the former Fort Bonifacio military base.

In September, ALI was the lone bidder when BLC attempted to auction off development rights to an 18.9-hectare portion of the Global City located in the northern central business district. ALI's offer of P11,800 per square meter was rejected because it was a substantial discount to MPC's original acquisition cost of more than P33,000 per square meter for the property.

ALI, however, is willing to improve its offer if it covered the entire stake in the 150-hectare development, which is a strategic fit to its own Makati central business district.

INQUIRER sources earlier noted that preliminary discussions were leading to a price quote of more than P20,000 per square meter. Also, the sources noted that Fort Bonifacio would enhance ALI's portfolio as the group was running out of landbank within the greater Metro Manila area, with the nearest assets already far south in Laguna.

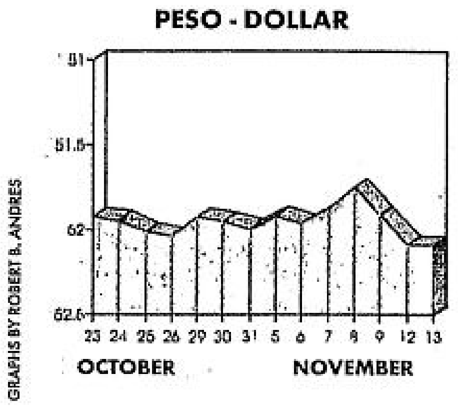
The Salim family of Indonesia, which controls First Pacific, had already given the go-ahead for MPC to sell out of the Fort Bonifacio project.

Once it unloads its stake in Fort Bonifacio, it will be left with only First e-Bank, leisure estate developer Landco Pacific and high-rise developer Pacific Plaza Towers in its books.

AYALA/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 52.09 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 13, 2001

¥ 121.18 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 13, 2001

GOLD:$278.50/279
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Nov. 13, 2001

STOCK MARKET

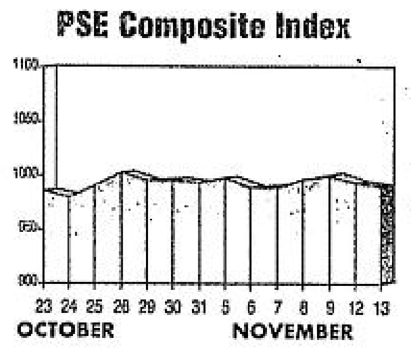
Shares fall 0.3%

SHARE prices fell 0.3 percent yesterday due to uncertainty created by the crash of a US airliner in New York and general lack of interest in the local market, analysts said.

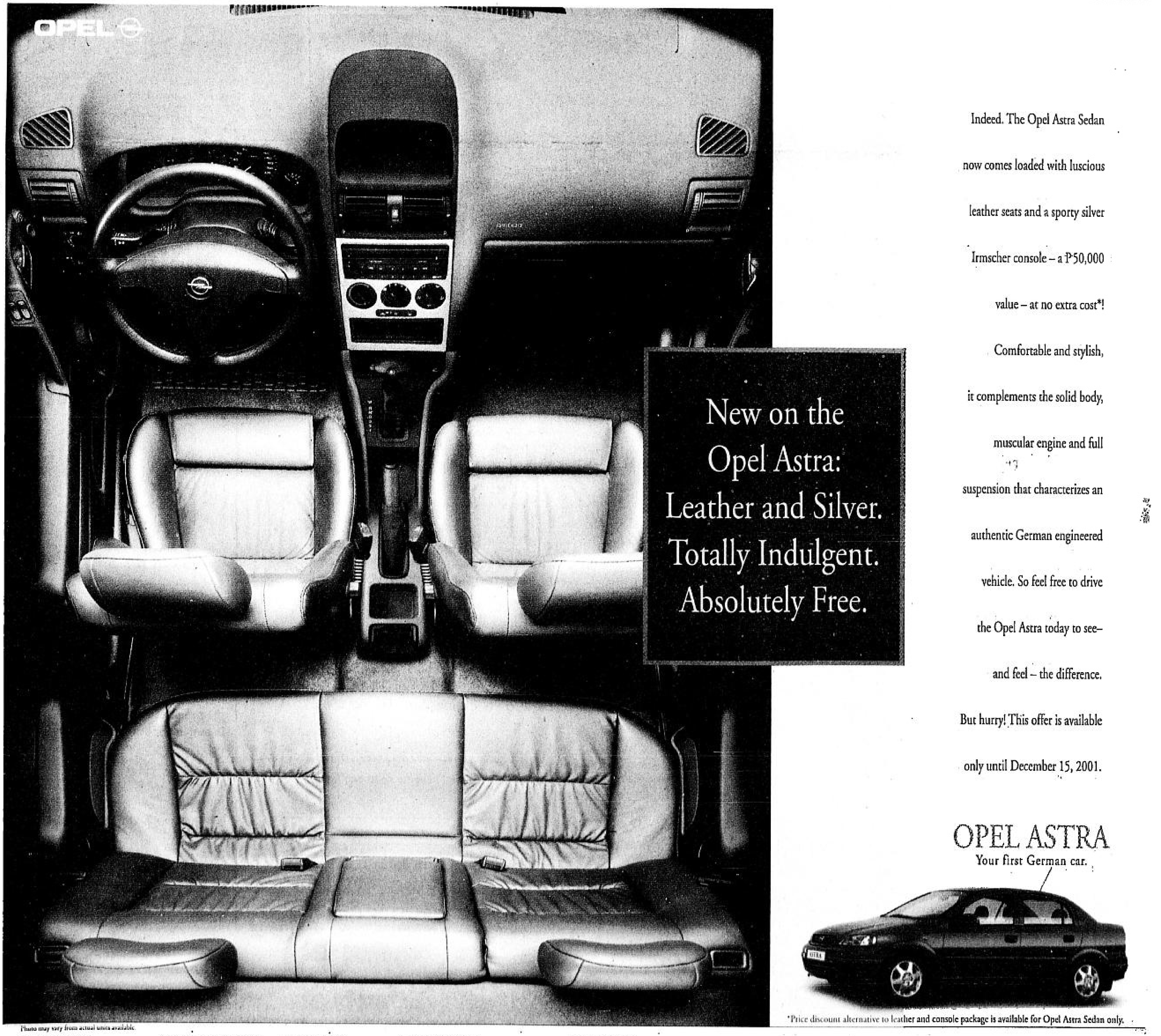
The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 3.27 points to 989.96.

"The crash in New York may have dampened some investors' buying appetite," Don Malabanan of A and A Securities said, referring to the American Airlines plane which went down in suburban New York with 260 people aboard.

AFP



(See stock market report on Page B6)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TO ALL U.P. LAW ALUMNI:

The U.P. Law Alumni Association (UPLAA) will hold its Grand Reunion and Homecoming on Friday, 23 November 2001, at the Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La. Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. The Hon. Franklin M. Drilon (Class '69), President of the Senate, will be the Keynote Speaker.

This year's celebration will be hosted by the Silver Jubilarians, Class '76. Other celebrating classes are 1941 Diamond, 1946 Emerald, 1951 Gold, 1956 Sapphire, 1961 Ruby, 1966 Coral, 1971 Pearl, 1981 China, 1986 Crystal, 1991 Tin and 1996 Wood.

For further information, please contact your Class Representative or the Secretariat at Tel. No. 8403783 / 8158843, Fax 8130885.

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Audit of cable operators set

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

CABLE program distributors will conduct an audit of local cable operators' subscriber base on suspicion that some of them have been under declaring the number of their subscribers.

Sky Vision Corp. managing director Carlos Tria Jr. told the INQUIRER that his company and other cable operators have already been notified by the distributors about the audit.

"Certain cable program distributors think their programs are undervalued in the Philippines. A number of operators are paying for a significantly lower number of subscribers than the actual figures," Tria said in an interview Tuesday.

He added that the audit was being conducted also due to pressure on programmers and distributors to generate a specified amount of revenues during a given time.

"They never conducted any audit before. They just took our word for it. But because of pressure on them to generate higher revenues, they now want to find out the actual subscriber base of Sky and the other operators. They want to know if the operators are telling the truth," he said.

Programmers charge cable operators on a per subscriber basis. Many operators, he said, were suspected of not declaring to the program providers their actual number of subscribers. An increase in subscriber base entails a corresponding increase in the fees charged to cable operators.

Operators are not being forced to undergo audit, Philippine Cable Television Association Inc. president J. Manuel Dabao said. Dabao added that operators could actually refuse to undergo an audit.

"If you don't want to be audited, tell them (distributors and programmers) you don't want to do business with them anymore. If you have nothing to hide, then go ahead," he said.

However, he said that even without the audit, one could easily find out who were not declaring their true subscriber base. "If an operator is charging only P250 for 70 channels, he is most likely hiding something."

When cable operators were still enjoying substantial growth in the market, Dabao said the discrepancy between the declared and undeclared number of subscribers was minimal.

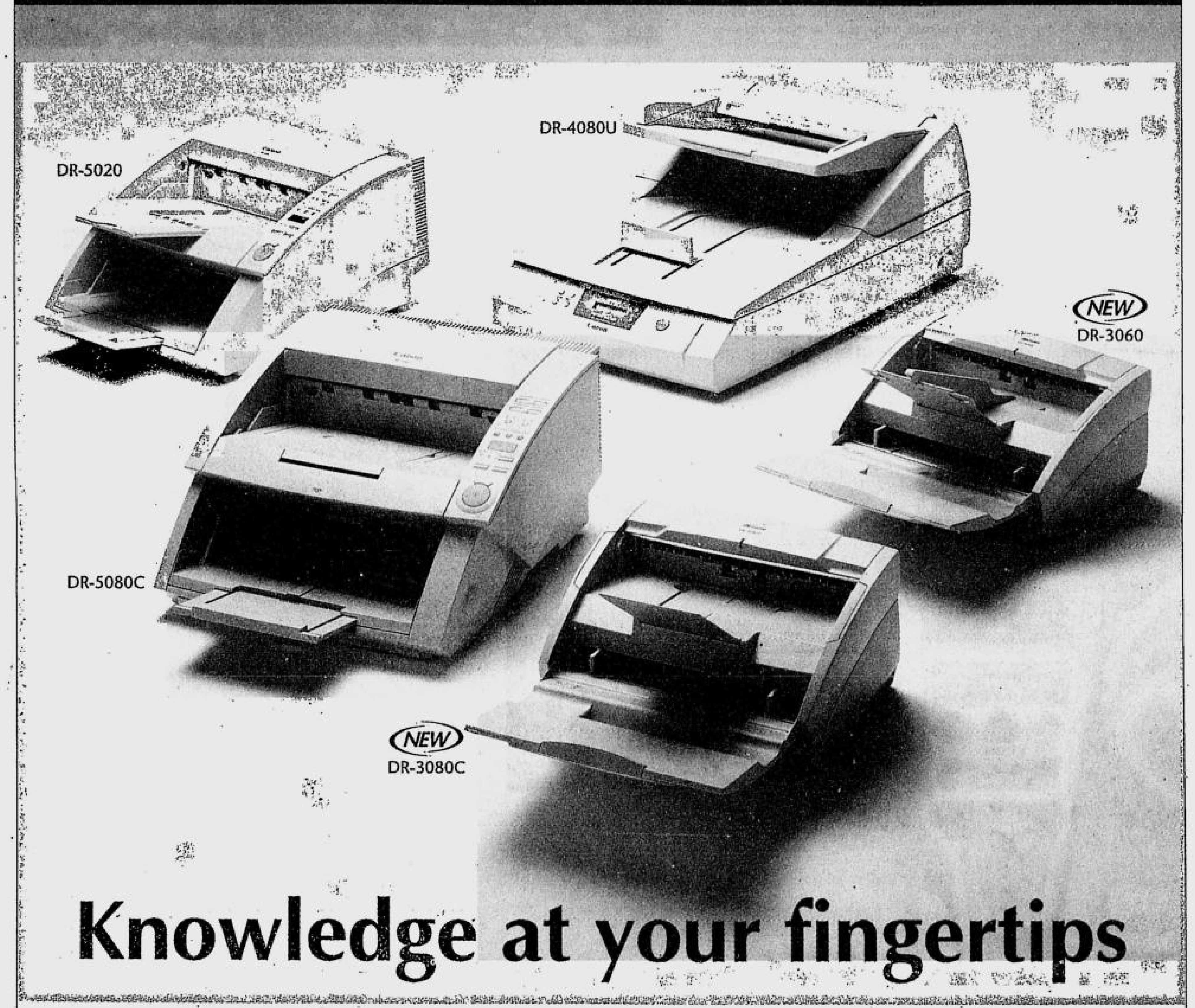
With the economic downturn and the devaluation of the peso, some operators have been under declaring their subscriber base to avoid paying higher subscription fees.

Operators used to declare monthly increases in their subscriber base when the market was up. This year, however, there has been no growth at all because of the poor state of the economy . "We are even losing subscribers."

Tria said the results of the audit might force cable operators to raise their monthly rates or drop some programs.

"When they do the audit, and if, as expected, they will use the audit findings to charge us and the other operators higher fees based on the actual number of subscribers, programming costs of all operators will go up. It will result in either higher rates, dropped programs, or both," he said.

CANON'S LINE OF DOCUMENT SCANNERS



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Dogfight

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

TAIPANS Lucio Tan and John Gokongwei may be *compares* and compatriots, but that does not prevent them from engaging each other in US-style price war.

A week before the launching of the regional flights of Mr. John's Cebu Pacific, Tan's Philippine Airlines has moved to undercut CebuPac's low-fare image.

PAL is now offering a $149-roundtrip economy ticket to Hong Kong, $1 less than CebuPac's inaugural fare of $150 for the territory. The new prices are about $50 less than the pre-Halloween Manila-Hong Kong-Manila tickets.

Despite the delayed delivery of the Boeing 757-200 it leased from an American company, CebuPac is pushing through with the introduction of its twice-daily flights to Hong Kong on Nov. 22, Thanksgiving Day, by using a much-smaller DC-9.

The 757-200, a newer, more fuel-efficient jetliner, can carry up to 194 passengers on a dual-class mode, as against the 90 of a similarly configured DC-9.

PAL, on the other hand, fields either an Airbus 320 or the bigger Airbus 330 (usually for the baggage-filled nightly last flight out of Hong Kong) for the same route.

To counter the Sept. 11 and Abu Sayyaf effects on the inbound route, PAL is now even promoting a rock-bottom HK$1,000 (about P6,400) ticket-and-hotel package to Manila for Hong Kong residents.

Three taipanettes

UNKNOWN to the general public, three daughters have quietly but effectively assumed the day-to-day operations of the respective business empires built by their more famous fathers.

Three of the six taipans have defied conventional Chinese wisdom that their business houses be handed out to the eldest male heir, largely because their first respective borns, all daughters, have exhibited the same grit as that of their dads.

COCKTALES/ B4

Ayala ...

(From page B1)

Earlier, MPC has already divested from other non-core businesses: Metro Bottled Water, packaging firm Steniel Manufacturing Corp. and agro-industrial feeds producer Metrovet Inc. It has also sold its stake in leader mobile phone provider Smart Communications Inc. to its parent company and removed Negros Navigation Co. from its books by issuing its shares in the shipping firm as dividends to MPC shareholders.

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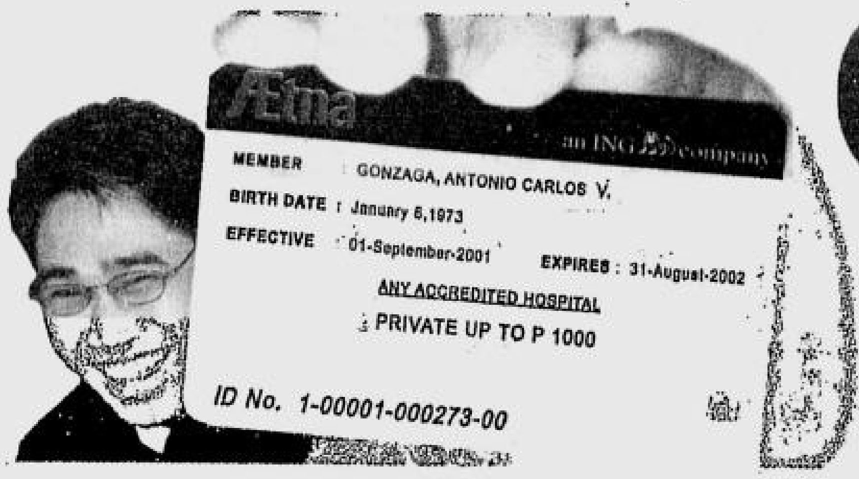

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Gov't debt stock up 13.68 % in August

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration's aggressive borrowing from the local market aggravated by the peso's weakness have pushed the country's debt stock up by 13.68 percent to P2.283 trillion in the first eight months of the year from P2.009 trillion a year ago.

Data from the Bureau of Treasury, however, showed that the total debt of the national government declined by about P13 billion or 0.52 percent in August from the seven-month level of P2.296 trillion.

The amount, however, does not include contingent debts of about P486 billion, representing sovereign guarantees on certain loans of government agencies and private companies.

If these contingent debts would become actual, the first eight-month debt stock would soar to P2.769 trillion, 38 percent higher than last year's level and 21 percent higher from month-ago level.

A government source noted that the slight improvement in the debt stock position of the national government was due largely to the repayment of a P26 billion worth of foreign loans and the lower level of domestic borrowing in August.

From an average exchange rate of P53.35 to a dollar in July, the peso improved to an average of 51.20 a month later.

Fresh foreign loans appeared to have pushed up the external borrowing level of the Macapagal administration. To date, the government has so far sealed more than $200 million worth of new loans with HSBC.

The debt stock released by the Treasury included the government's local and foreign borrowings. The figure does not include, however, the liabilities of the private sector which are included in the debt stock statistics from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Foreign debts accounted for 57.5 percent of the total debt stock equivalent to about P1.592 trillion. This is 39 percent or P447 billion higher compared to the external debts of P1.145 trillion a month ago.

Local borrowings went up by only 2.34 percent or about P27 billion to P1.177 trillion from P1.15 trillion a month ago. Domestic borrowings represent treasury bills, bonds and special debt notes.

Of the total debt, government securities accounted for P1.132 trillion of the pie while domestic loans assumed by the national government for agencies like the National Power Corp. amounted to P12.3 billion.

The debt stock this year was higher due to the Macapagal administration's heavy dependence on domestic borrowings to finance the deficit.

The government borrows about P7 billion weekly from the private sector by issuing treasury bills and bonds.

Of the P173 billion in funds to be borrowed this year, close to 80 percent will come the local financial market. Next year, the government said it would bring up the share of foreign borrowings to almost half the required amount of P111 billion.

A government source pointed out that treasury bill rates, particularly the benchmark 91-day rate, continued to trade at single-digit levels, allowing the government wider access to cheaper funds.

Iraq-Eastern oil supply talks shelved

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PROSPECTS dimmed for Eastern Petroleum Corp.'s bid to corner a bigger chunk of the local market as the Sept. 11 attacks on the US derailed the oil firm's oil supply negotiations with Iraq.

Eastern Petroleum chair Fernando Martinez said in an interview Monday the attacks caused alarm in the Middle East where the bulk of the world's crude supply come from.

Martinez's firm has been in talks with Iraq since early this year under the United Nation's oil-for-food program.

Iraq has suffered economic restrictions since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990 leading to the Gulf War.

"We are still hoping that we could have a favorable response from Iraq before the program expires in December," Martinez told the INQUIRER.

In an earlier interview, he said his company was expecting an allocation of about a million barrels per month from the government of Iraq.

"If negotiations (with Iraq) go smoothly, we could get the crude as early as November," he had said.

Eastern plans to have the crude processed in a Southeast Asian refinery, most likely in Singapore or Thailand.

He, however, added that the problem with the deal with Iraq did not affect the firm's performance in the market.

"We just won't be able to have an edge that an independent crude supply could give us," he said.

New entrants in the local oil industry buy finished products from overseas refiners and sometimes from local companies.

Martinez explained that his company's effort to clinch a deal with Iraq was part of a continuing attempt by the new players to bring in products at the least cost possible to be competitive.

Martinez, who is also president of the New Petroleum Players Association, said a successful deal would allow Eastern to sell finished products to other local small players.

He said, however, that his firm would continue to invest for the expansion of its operations.

"We are very confident that we will meet our target to set up 100 new stations in the next two years," he said.

As of last year, Eastern was operating 30 service stations, most of which are in Luzon.

RP, Indonesia ink pact on oil, gas exploration

JAKARTA, Indonesia's state oil company Pertamina and the Philippines' Philippines National Oil Co (PNOC) have signed a memorandum of understanding to explore oil, gas and geothermal resources in both countries.

"Under the MOU, Pertamina and PNOC will explore oil and gas, and geothermal resources in both countries," Pertamina's spokesperson Ridwan Nyak Baik said in a statement on Tuesday.

He said investment for this purpose was forecast at around $1 billion.

"Both companies need to have further talks on what and where and the other details of the exploration. The $1 billion worth of investment is a projection," Ridwan said.

He said Pertamina would explore the possibility of exporting to the Philippines from its natural gas field in central Sulawesi.

He, however, did not give details of this plan. *Reuters*

Cocktales

(From page B3)

The ascension of Helen Yuchengco-Dee over the Yuchengco empire has been in the news lately. But the first formal passing of the torch, that of the Gotianun empire to daughter Josephine Gotianun-Yap last year, has largely gone unnoticed.

Over at the SM Shoemart-Banco de Oro, Teresita Sy-Coson has increasingly been taking on more responsibility from taipan Henry Sy, who now has more time to spend leisurely dinners with friends in choice Makati restaurants. Even without the title, Coson has been the de-facto COO of the SM Shoemart-Banco de Oro group.

As to the remaining three taipans, except for Lucio Tan whose line of succession is not clear (not for lack of candidates), George Ty and John Gokongwei have to thank their biological stars for simplifying what could have been a vexing conundrum for others.

PR-less PR

TWO paragraphs from Cocktales' column had been lifted without permission and used in a full-page ad to attack Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez by the airport service operators opposed to the new Naia Terminal 3.

Columnist/Lopez PR consultant Boo Chanco suffered the same effrontery in the same attack ad, which appeared in the business section of another newspaper the other day.

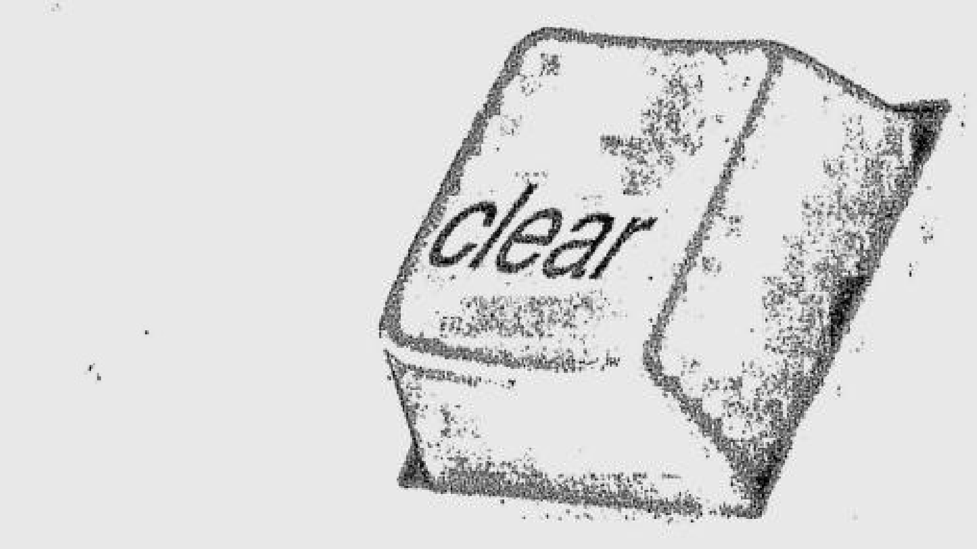
The offending ad had been cooked up and placed by advertising/PR executive Charlie Agatep, who even lumped Cocktales and Chanco in the company of ex-senator now columnist Ernesto Maceda.

We do not know what kind of glib talk Agatep has offered to win clients but as far as this column and the INQUIRER business section are concerned, Agatep's PR releases and tactics have always belonged to the dump.

Heard through the grapevine

AFTER aspiring for the job since the Cory Aquino days, Vic Sison has finally been named general manager of The Manila Hotel, assuming the position effective tomorrow. Unfortunately, the Manila Hotel then is vastly different from the Manila Hotel now.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)



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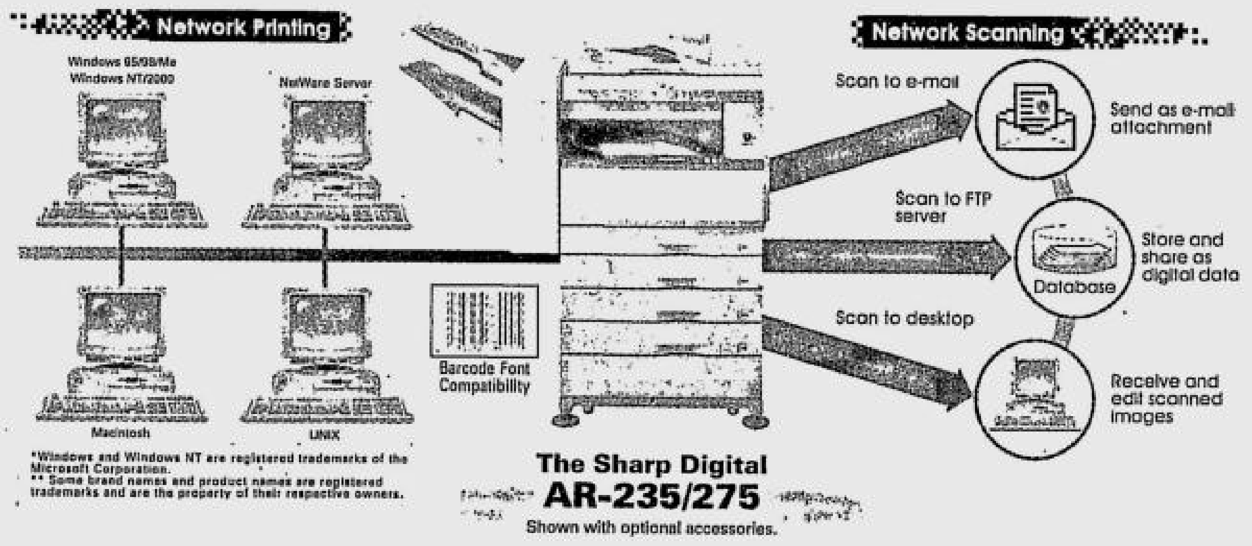
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Gov't to rebid Napocor insurance on Monday

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE JOINT committee tasked to oversee the bidding for the National Power Corp.'s insurance policy will hold a second auction on Monday.

The policy will cover Napocor assets worth $6.5 billion.

The first auction, held on Sept. 27, was declared a failure since not a single offer was submitted on bidding day. All the insurance brokerage firms that were pre-qualified to participate in the bidding sent letters of regret saying they were not ready with their offers at that time.

They said that unfavorable market conditions arising from the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States prevented them from coming up with their proposals on time.

Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo, in a statement, said representatives of both Napocor and the Government Service Insurance System agreed in a meeting last Friday to hold the second bidding.

Bernardo chairs the committee where Napocor and GSIS have two representatives each.

He said the terms of reference and letters of invitation to the prequalified bidders were sent last Monday.

The list includes Aon Energy, Alexander Forbes, Andrew Higgins Pickering, Arthur J. Gallagher, Marsh & McLennan and Heath Lambert.

The decision to hold a second bidding was arrived at after more than a month of studying the different ways to go about the renewal of Napocor's industrial all-risk policy.

The insurance policy covers fixed assets including power plants, substations and submarine transmission cables.

In an earlier interview, Bernardo said the committee has scrapped plans to extend for 90 days Napocor's insurance policy that expired on Sept. 30.

Bernardo said Chesterfield Insurance Brokerage Ltd., which the committee tapped to secure a cover note for the policy's extension, failed to obtain a good deal.

"The terms of the new policy would not be locked in to the expiring policy," Bernardo added.

After the failure of the first bidding, the committee had entertained the idea of allowing Napocor to implement a "captive" insurance program.

Last month, a Napocor source familiar with the matter said the state firm also considered options involving self-insurance.

This included the possibility of setting up a captive company or subsidiary that would be dedicated to the state firm's insurance program.

He said another option was to put in an escrow account Napocor's allocation for insurance, which is $13 million per year.

"When the need arises, we would just have to draw from this fund," the source said.

Agriculture sector remains center of poverty, says DA

By Dennis A. Maliwanag
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Seven years since the Philippines signed the trade accords with the World Trade Organization, the country's agriculture and fisheries sector remained the center of poverty and stagnant productivity.

Inadequacy of government support, tardiness and lowering tariffs beyond WTO-bound commitments have caused the sector's failure "to modernize, diversify and take advantage of existing market access opportunities," said the Department of Agriculture in an official position paper to the WTO Ministerial Conference.

Despite being an anchor sector of the economy, 75 percent of Filipino farmers and fishermen remained in poverty while output growth was limited to less than 2 percent since the 1990s, said the DA.

Agriculture has been included into the General Agreements on Tariff and Trade (GATT) during the Uruguay round. The Philippines, together with 117 other member-countries, signed the global trade accord in April 1994 and thereafter ratified by the Senate.

Since the country started implementing the agreements on agriculture in 1995, there has been a "virtual non-existence of any domestic support structure," admitted the DA.

It said that the government was culpable of "six years of tardiness in the enactment and non-implementation of necessary trade remedy laws on anti-dumping, countervailing measures, and special safeguard measures."

Of the promised P128 billion fund for physical safety nets, infrastructure and competitiveness-enhancing public investments, the government was able to meet only 40 percent.

An average domestic support of only 4 percent of gross value added was implemented out of the allowable 10 percent under the WTO, the DA said.

The DA, together with other government line agencies, is part of the Philippine negotiating team at the ongoing WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar.

"Some of the then developing countries that are now deemed successful in adjusting to globalization relentlessly devoted public resources to reconfiguring and increasing domestic support structures to allowable limits," said the DA.

PSBank posts 84% increase in profit

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank, the thrift banking unit of the Ty family, posted an 84-percent increase in net income to P134 million in the first nine months this year from P72.6 million in the same period last year.

"Prudent management of interest margin and increases in other operating incomes contributed largely to the encouraging net revenue," PSBank said.

Interest income went up by 21 percent to P1.66 billion while interest expense accelerated by 16 percent to P779 million.

The bank noted that the rise in profits was attained despite the allocation of P103.5 million for loan loss provision. The amount is 118 percent more than the P47.5 million set aside during the same period last year.

Bank resources grew by P222 million to P18.127 billion from P17.9 billion, primarily because of a P181-million hike in deposits and profits from operations.

Gross loans also improved by P700 million while investments in bonds and other debt instruments jumped by P500 million.

PSBank, a unit of Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. of the Tys, said it stepped up efforts on the foreclosure of collateral of delinquent borrowers. This, it said, resulted in the increase of the bank's real and other property owned and acquired to P340 million.

PSBank recently appointed a new president, Pascual Garcia III, who came from DBS Bank Philippines, the bank acquired by Bank of the Philippine Islands.

PSBank is currently one of the largest thrift banks in the country.

GMA income up 377% in first nine months

GMA Network Inc. (GMA), the country's second biggest broadcasting network, has sustained a strong operational and financial performance that started early this year.

As of the third quarter ending September, GMA posted a net income of P299.4 million, up by 377 percent from the P62.8 million in profit registered in the same period last year. Gross revenues improved by 28 percent, from P2.1 billion last year to P2.7 billion this year.

Felipe Gozon, GMA chair/president and CEO, said that despite the worldwide recession and the decline in spending for advertisement in September, GMA generated gross revenues of P294 million, 12 percent higher than last year's level.

With companies cutting back their advertising expenses, TV revenues declined. This was, however, offset by radio revenues that registered higher figures.

The increase in operating expenses for the first nine months of the year was kept at 9 percent, from P1.29 million in 2000 to P1.41 million in 2001. Production costs and talent fees contributed to the bulk of the increase. Short-term notes payable decreased from P700 million in 2000 to P200 million in 2001. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) as of end-September stood at P4.08 billion, 44 percent higher than last year's P753 million.

Gozon is optimistic that despite the current international crisis, GMA can still hit its year-end targets.

27th PBC conducts business matching

VISITORS to the 27th Philippine Business Conference (PBC) will be treated to a wide array of products and services from all over the country as the three-day trade exhibits and business matching sessions open today at the lower lobby, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Confirmed guests of honor at the formal opening ceremonies at 9 a.m. today include Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., 27th PBC chair Jimmy Tang, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president Miguel Varela and Ma. Clara Camacho, wife of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Samie Lim, chair of the committee on trade exhibits at the 27th PBC, said that this year's trade exhibits would highlight the growth of sunshine industries in the country specifically in the field of information technology (IT), feature the Mindanao region and showcase the e-services in government.

Business matching committee chair Francisco R. Floro also disclosed that for the first time at the PBC, trade exhibits would be integrated with business matching. One-on-one matching takes place in the exhibitors' booths with each appointment pre-matched and scheduled by the secretariat. Business matching is the identification of the promising investment opportunities or business projects and their endorsement to potential takers.

Local and international chambers of commerce and industry, international trade missions, entrepreneurs looking for national and global partners as well as private and government business partners are expected to visit the trade exhibits and join in the business matching.

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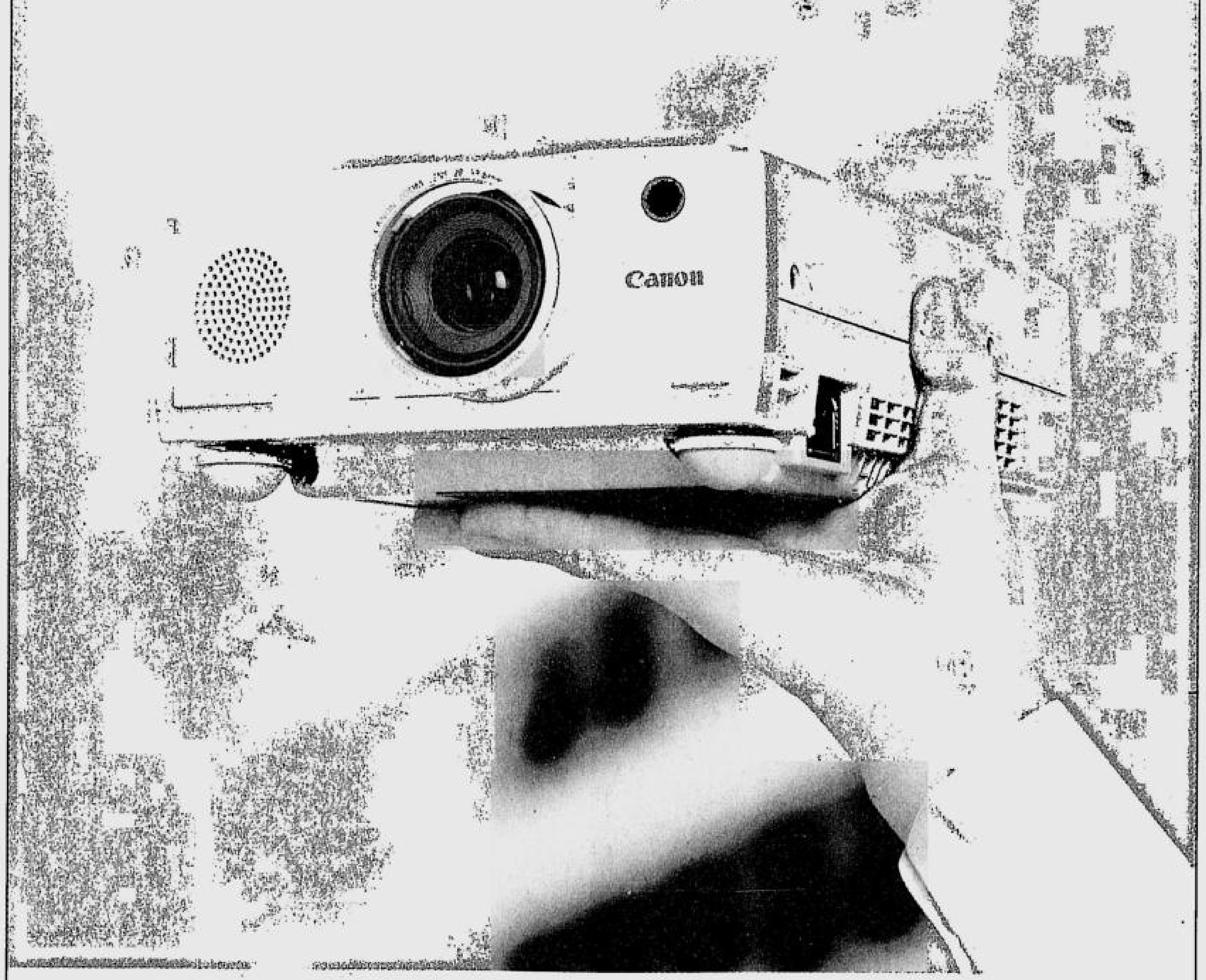

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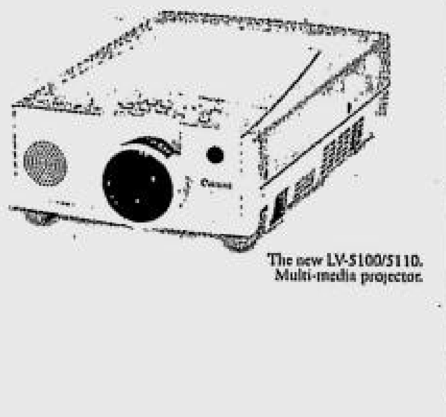

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Jollibee net profit up 7.3%

By Doris C. Dumlao

FAST-FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. chalked up a net income of P197 million in the third quarter, 7.3 percent higher than the level posted in the same period last year as the expansion of its store network boosted revenues.

During an analysts' briefing yesterday, JFC chief finance officer Miguel Jose Navarette said the company was still on track of its 8- to 10-percent net income growth projection for the full year.

"We'll still hit the lower end of the projection," he said.

The third quarter was so far the company's best quarter for the year, although lower than JFC's target growth of about 13 percent for the period.

"Our performance continues to be driven principally by the sustained growth of our flagship brand, Jollibee. Given the expectedly keen competitive activity in the burger-chicken segment, Jollibee enhanced its leadership position during this period by always providing consumers with good value for their hard-earned money," JFC chair and CEO Tony Tan Caktiong said.

Although the peso depreciation has been tempered during the period, JFC, like other businesses, continued to be hounded by rising cost of production. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States also added to the uncertainties faced by local consumers.

"Notwithstanding all of this uncertainty, we have chosen to stay on course with our strategy to invest in brand equity by concentrating on providing superior value to our consumers across all business units," Tan Caktiong said.

JFC opened its 800th retail store in the Philippines during the third quarter. Its revenue grew 22.7 percent to P4.7 billion, although cost of sales and other expenses rose by the same level during the period.

For the first nine months of the year, JFC's net income stood at P647.6 million, 6.8 percent higher than the level during the same period last year.

The growth in JFC's revenue was driven by the expansion of same-base store sales and growth of store network of its core brands.

At the end of the third quarter, JFC has built a total network of 406 stores for its flagship Jollibee brand, 196 for Greenwich, 182 for Chowking, 21 for Delifrance and 29 for offshore Jollibee and Chowking stores.

The company said efforts to leverage in purchasing and logistics enabled the company to mitigate cost of inputs. The stable peso-dollar exchange rate also allowed some improvement in the cost of sales.

On a per share basis, there was a 13.7-percent improvement year-on-year due to the company's buyback program.

BANK OF COMMERCE

₱200M in fresh equity set

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANK of Commerce is increasing this week its capital by P200 million through an additional capital infusion from the group of PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco and the College Assurance Plan group of the Sobrepeña family.

In an interview, Bank of Commerce president Raul de Mesa also said that the bank's non-performing loan ratio would drop to 18 percent this month from 32.81 percent in September as soon as the bank completes its takeover of Traders Royal Bank.

The transaction and the additional capital would bring up Bank of Commerce's capital adequacy ratio close to 17 percent from its current level of 11 percent, De Mesa noted.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last week approved Bank of Commerce's assumption of roughly P12 billion in TRB's assets, and an equal amount of selected liabilities.

The BSP also accepted TRB property and P800 million of Bank of Commerce's liquid assets as settlement of the monetary agency's P2 billion in emergency advances to TRB. Bank of Commerce, however, will be required to buy back these assets before the end of 10 years.

In line with the takeover, state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. a month ago agreed to extend P2 billion to Bank of Commerce to allow the bank to liquefy TRB's non-performing assets and 65.5 percent in bad loans.

De Mesa said the bank would be able to integrate TRB into its operations within a month's time after the BSP's go-ahead.

With 55 branches, located mostly in the Visayas and Mindanao, TRB would bring Bank of Commerce's total branch network to 110. Bank of Commerce would also likely see its asset base jump to about P30 billion from P20 billion, making it the 22nd largest bank in the country.

As of the third week of September, TRB had assets of P10 billion, deposits of P7.085 billion, and loans of P4.8 billion.

New group buys 50% of Philtread

A GROUP of new investors led by ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. has acquired a 50-percent equity stake in Philtread Holdings Corp.

The acquisition is subject to the approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the company's pending application for an increase in its authorized capital stock.

The investor group is composed of ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc.; ATR Holdings Inc.; Francisco J. Colayco; Rodolfo I. Lozada, and Motherwell Inc. The investment amounted to approximately P450 million, and will give the investor group a controlling stake in Philtread.

As part of the transaction, Philtread has also acquired shares and assets in Net Curricula Inc. and LBC Global Corp.

The investment paves the way for Philtread's transformation from a largely dormant corporation into an active holding and operating company that will acquire significant stakes in and operate profitably companies.

Following the closing of the transaction, the following were elected to the company's board: Manuel N. Tordesillas as chair and chief executive officer to replace Gerard H. Brimo; Roberto C. Benares as treasurer, and Gemma M. Santos as corporate secretary; Ramon B. Arnaiz and Dominic A. Acevedo.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, November 13, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43.5	43	43.5	223,600
China Banking Corp.	500	500	500	500	700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	161	162	160	161	343,590
Philippine National Bank	47	47.5	47	47.5	373,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	16	16	16	16	20,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	40,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1320	1310	1320	610
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. P .	4500	0.45	0.4	0.4	250,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1080	1080	1080	450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	25.5	24	24	3,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	240,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	570	565	565	48,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3	3	3	3	15,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	360	360	357.5	357.5	180,650
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	13,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21	21	20.75	20.75	10,000
Manila Electric Co. B	27	28	27	27	528,200
Petron Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	2,052,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	890,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	908,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.42	1.5	1.42	1.5	7,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	112,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	43,500
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23.25	23.5	23.25	23.5	18,500
RFM Corp.	1.96	1.98	1.86	1.88	1,445,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39.5	40.5	39.5	40.5	30,400
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51	51	51	427,600
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.3	90,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.25	291,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	1,158,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	220,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	15,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	200,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	420,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	900,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	200,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22	22	21.5	21.5	113,300
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Ionics Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	38,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	70,000
Medco Holdings	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	400,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	350,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	20,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	150,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	70,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	350,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	3,440,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.18	0.18	170,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	30,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	25,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.4	4.4	14,651,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	380,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	811,000
City & Land Developers	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	240,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	5,011,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	110,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	650,000
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	20,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
					OIL
Interport Res.	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	1,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,800,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	130,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,252,450	84,623,025.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	71,677,550	151,890,275.00
PRO	21,293,000	92,396,620.00
Mining	21,960,000	214,900.00
OIL	7,950,000	113,700.00
GRAND TOTALS :	124,133,000	329,238,520.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	391.08	DOWN 0.31
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,406.38	DOWN 2.08
PRO	423.79	DOWN 6.47
Mining	937.71	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.17	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	652.51	DOWN 1.90
Composite	989.96	DOWN 3.27

NO. OF ADVANCES: 12; NO. OF DECLINES: 33; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 86; NO. OF TRADES: 1,016

HSBC to close RP stock unit

THE PHILIPPINE stock exchange—Asia's worst performer of 2001—lost its 13th foreign brokerage of the year yesterday, with international financial giant HSBC giving up on its Manila brokerage business.

"HSBC Investment Banking and Markets confirms that it has notified the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission that HSBC Securities (Philippines) Inc. intends to cease operations," the company said in a statement.

HSBC will end its stock trading business on Dec. 31 subject to regulatory approval but will cease taking orders immediately, the statement said.

HSBC joins a growing list of overseas brokerages fleeing a market suffering from chronic poor liquidity and bearish sentiment.

Merrill Lynch, Citicorp International Securities, BNP Paribas, Securities 2000, Nomura Securities, Orion Square Capital, OCBC Securities, GK Goh, Guoco Holdings, Magnum International Securities, WorldSec and Rashid Hussain Securities have all said they would close during 2001.

The benchmark Philippine stock index has fallen more than 30 percent so far this year to rest near 10-year lows on political uncertainty and a lack of foreign investor confidence.

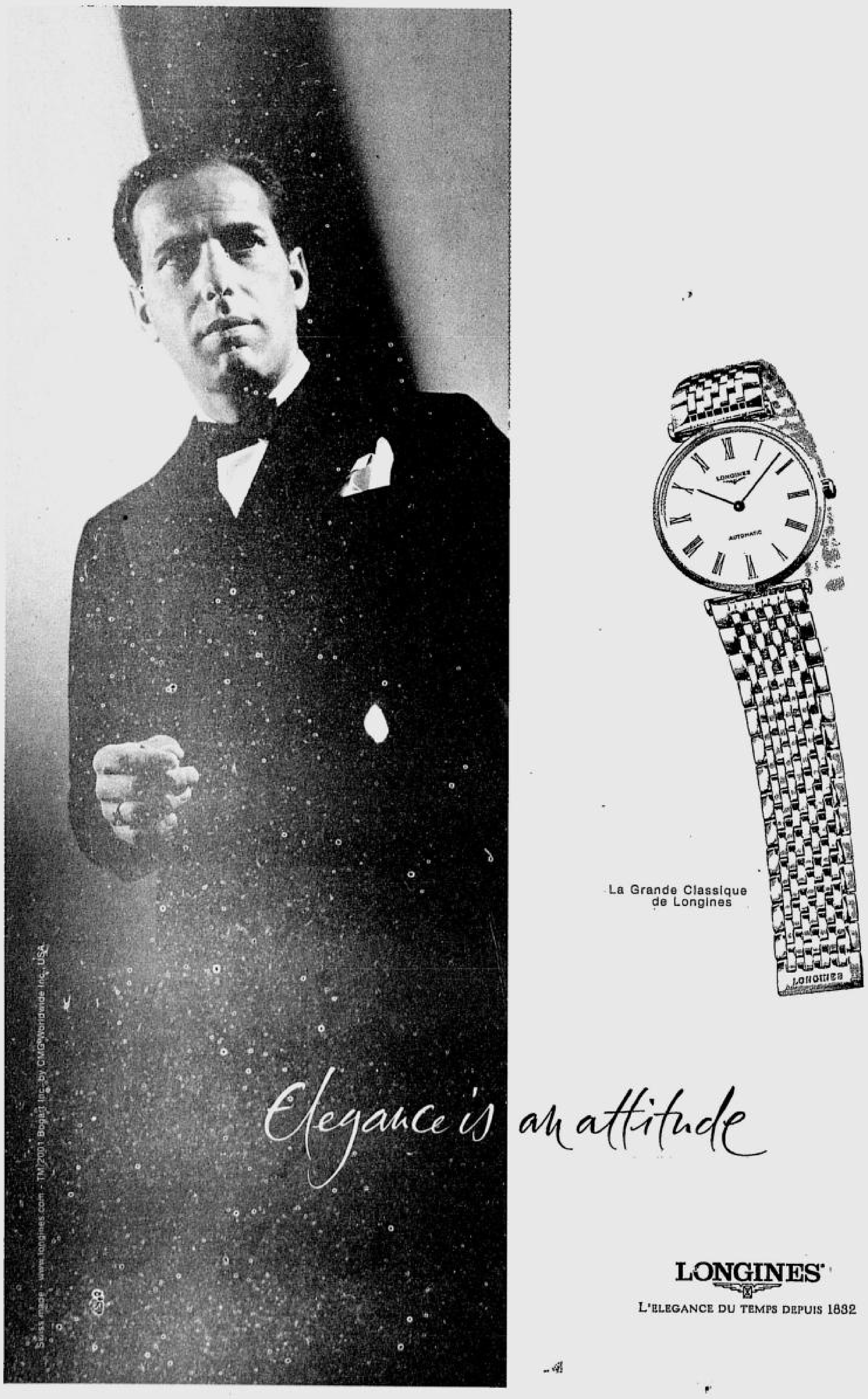
HSBC will lay off 22 staff but its commercial and consumer banking services will be unaffected, the company added.

Reuters

CURRENCIES

Nov. 13, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.117943	1.000000	52.0300
Japan	Yen	0.009289	0.008309	0.4323
United Kingdom	Pound	1.628396	1.456600	75.7869
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143337	0.128215	6.6710
Switzerland	Franc	0.682421	0.610426	31.7605
Canada	Dollar	0.697406	0.623830	32.4579
Singapore	Dollar	0.613748	0.548998	28.5644
Australia	Dollar	0.575073	0.514403	26.7644
Bahrain	Dinar	2.965524	2.652661	138.0180
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298119	0.266667	13.8747
Brunei	Dollar	0.614086	0.549300	28.5801
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025145	0.022492	1.1703
UAE	Dirham	0.304451	0.272331	14.1694
Korea	Won	0.000879	0.000786	0.0409
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.894500	46.5408
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.457351	23.7960
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136366	7.0951
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.405906	21.1193
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065006	3.3823
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022174	1.1537
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000462	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150444	7.8276
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004462	0.2322
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005376	0.2797
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022174	1.1537
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.135781	59.0947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PNB signing delayed

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE SIGNING of a debt-to-equity agreement between the government and Philippine National Bank majority owner Lucio Tan has again hit a snag over new contentious issues over a planned joint sale.

"I don't think we can sign something before I leave for the United States. Most likely, we would be able to sign the deal late this month when I get back," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters yesterday.

Camacho said early this week that he was hoping to sign at least the final term sheet—the document containing the details of the debt-to-equity conversion of the government's P25 billion in advances to PNB—today.

The finance secretary will join President Macapagal-Arroyo in a state visit to the United States this week. From the United States, he will proceed to Europe to sell over $225 million worth of bonds for the National Power Corp. He will not be back until Nov. 24.

"There is one more point, an aspect of the exit mechanism, where we have to reach an agreement on. I hope we can come up with an agreeable solution to this issue before I leave," he said.

This "exit mechanism" will bind both parties to sell jointly once the bank has recovered in three years' time.

Persons familiar with the situation said this issue was important because it would guarantee that both the government and Tan would relinquish control of the bank, making it more attractive to investors.

Camacho clarified the other day that what the government and Tan might sign earlier than the actual agreement would be the "term sheet."

He said the actual agreement would be signed "shortly thereafter" as the deal needed to be approved by Malacañang, the Department of Justice and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

He said, however, that even the signing of the term sheet was deferred because of "legal issues on certain mechanics, especially on the joint sale."

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Donaldson Filtration - air/liquid/gas turbine filters, torit products
Eastman Industrial Supply - electric motors, pumps, controls, pressure tanks
Gillest Holdings - food waste disposer
Hawaii Pacific Steel Framing - housing technology using light gauge steel
Lincoln Electric Phils. Inc. - welding consumables
Masonite Corporation/Pacific Timber Export Corporation - molded doors
Scaffold Tech Services Corporation - mechanized gondola, waterproofing

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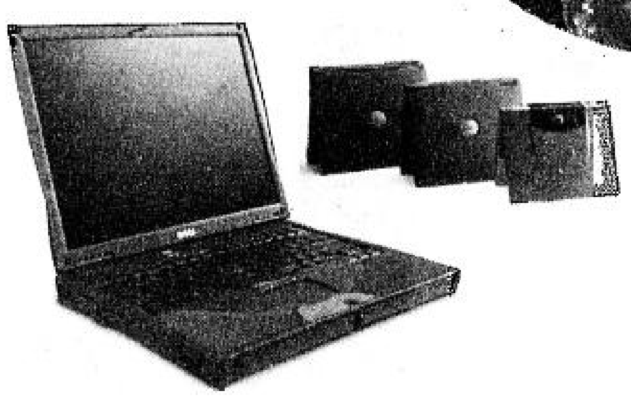

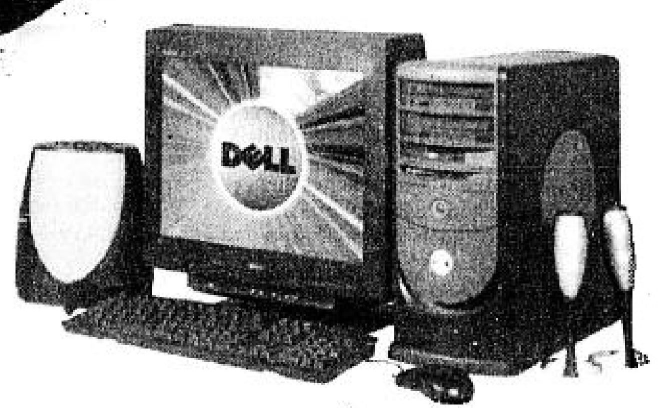

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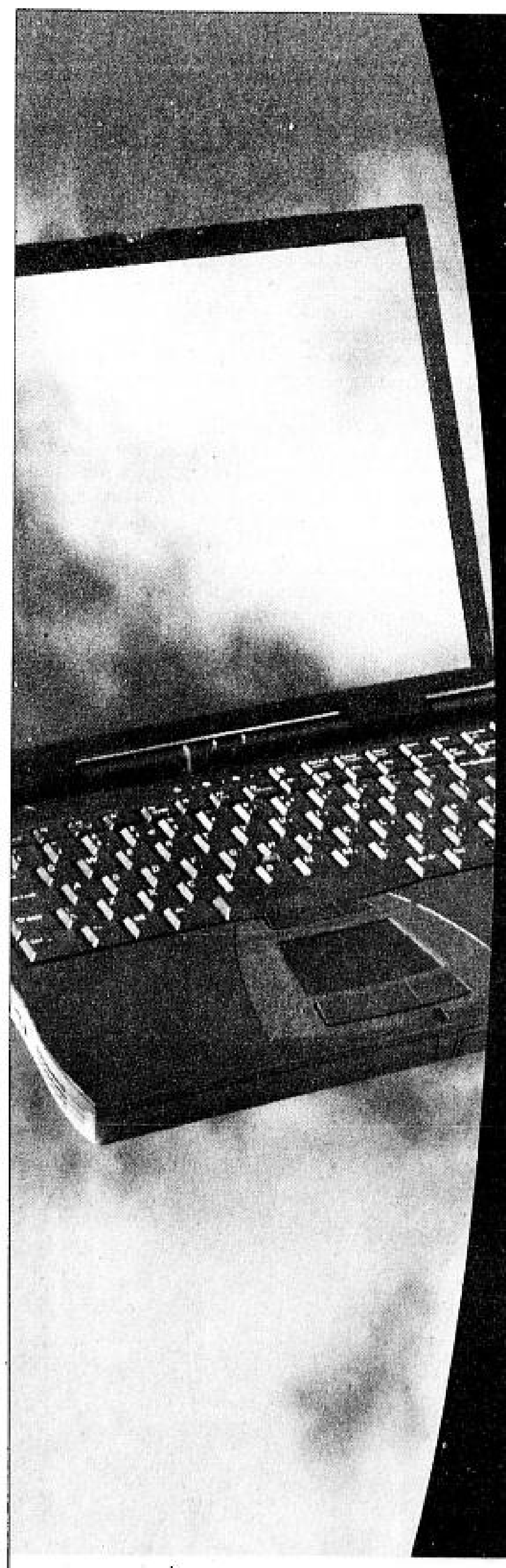

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Japan to contract through to March 2003

TOKYO—The Japanese economy may shrink for the next two years, pressured by weak productivity at home amid a global economic slump, a key minister said Tuesday.

"Given that basic Japanese economic strength is low, there is a possibility that growth will be negative in the next fiscal year (to March 2003)," State Minister for Economic and Fiscal Policy Heizo Takenaka told a parliamentary committee.

"We have to manage the economy to avoid negative growth. But for the next two or three years, we are faced with the view that the economy is in a severe condition," he said.

Parliament is preparing to pass a slim 2,995.5-billion-yen ($25-billion) extra budget this week for the year to March 2002 in a bid to support the economy as it slips into its fourth recession in a decade.

The package, aimed at creating employment safety nets, is much smaller than previous pump-priming measures reflecting reform efforts by Tokyo to cap fiscal spending and plug funds to public works projects.

But market players expect the government to spend more to offset a deep depression.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has pledged to limit new government bond issues at 30 trillion yen to rein in exploding national debt but has hinted at breaking the ceiling in light of the global economic trauma since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

News of a second deadly air disaster in the United States compounded flying fears Tuesday, prompting investors to dump shares in airlines and travel firms, helping to send the Nikkei-225 average of the Tokyo Stock Exchange down 1.2 percent to end the morning at 9,963.20.

The index last finished under the symbolic 10,000 point-mark on Oct. 10.

Mechanical failure and not terrorism apparently caused the American Airlines Airbus A300 to slam into a New York City residential area Monday, killing all 260 people on board and destroying homes on the ground.

The crash came two months after four commercial jets were hijacked and turned into missiles above New York and Washington killing thousands and helping to send the global economy into a tailspin.

Japan's government forecast last week the world's No. 2 economy would shrink 0.9 percent in the full year to March 2002, abandoning an initial growth forecast on economic fears at home and abroad.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said Tuesday, Tokyo would issue an official growth domestic product forecast for the year to March 2003 early in December.

AFP

Japan seen sinking into deficit

TOKYO—Japan is losing its reputation as a trade giant as faltering exports amid a global economic slump push down its trade surplus and threaten to create a current account deficit, analysts say.

"Chances are high that Japan would suffer a current account deficit in two to three years if this declining surplus trend continues," said Osamu Katano, an analyst at Mizuho Securities Co. Ltd.

"Japan had achieved a miracle recovery from the devastation of World War II by driving up exports to the world, but that period is over," Katano told AFP.

"Japanese companies can no longer compete with developing nations over production costs, and they are speeding up shifting production bases to other countries," he said.

"Japan's image—the establishment of a state on the basis of trade—is now eroding rapidly."

The world's No. 2 economy has not experienced a current account deficit, when more money floods out of the nation than comes in, since January 1991 when it dipped to 14.3 billion yen ($119 million).

A country's current account measures the flow of goods, services and investment income plus other financial transfers.

Japan's Ministry of Finance is due to release September's current account figures on Wednesday, and many analysts predict a further sharp decline in the surplus.

In August, the current account surplus fell for the ninth straight month, down 27.1 percent from a year earlier to 708.6 billion yen. In the six months to September, the trade surplus plummeted 43.1 percent.

A global and domestic slowdown, especially in the hi-tech sector, together with the impact on trade of the recent terrorist attacks in the United States has slowed exports, economists say.

But government officials insist Japan will likely maintain its current account surplus.

AFP

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SONY Corp. president and chief operating officer Kunitake Ando taps "Spiderman" on the shoulder at the beginning of his keynote address at Comdex 2001 in Las Vegas. The world's largest computer technology show continues all week with some 2,000 vendors showing off the latest in computer-related technology to over 150,000 attendees. Sony will release the major motion picture "Spiderman" in May 2002.

REUTERS

Sony signs Internet deals with AOL

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Sony Corp. and AOL Time Warner Inc. announced an alliance Monday to allow their vast libraries of films, music and other content to be delivered to homes via high-speed Internet connections.

The initiative unveiled at the Comdex electronics show here will allow consumers to share entertainment content among multiple devices with proper copyright management, the companies said.

The alliance will counter Microsoft Corp.'s recent moves to create its own network of hardware, software and content, such as movies, music and news.

On Sunday, Microsoft chair Bill Gates showed off his own company's high-speed Internet network campaign. Part of that scheme will be the company's powerful XBox computer gaming console. The device, due in stores this Thursday, will have enough power to make it a high-speed network appliance capable of delivering movies, music and other content to home users.

The AOL-Sony partnership also commits both companies to developing standards aimed at allowing various Sony devices, including hand-held computers, video cameras and even digital music players to easily communicate with each other.

"This year marks the beginning of the broadband age," declared Sony president Kunitake Ando during a flashy stage presentation featuring music and a climbing Spiderman character. Sony Pictures is releasing a new Spiderman movie next May.

Steve Case, AOL Time Warner's chair, said the initiative was aimed at creating networked devices that would be as easy to use "as plugging in your toaster." Case beamed his remarks to the crowd via a satellite broadcast.

Sony also announced Tuesday it was working with AOL to create a new Web browser that would tie Sony devices closer to AOL, the world's most popular online service with 30 million-plus users. AOL owns Netscape, a once-dominating Web browser eclipsed by Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

Central to the alliance is an emerging standard Sony has labeled "Feel." The technology allows devices to communicate with each other when they either touch each other or get within close proximity of other "Feel" equipped devices.

Sony also announced Tuesday it was partnering with both Nokia and Ericsson to create high-speed network standards that will allow cell phones to exchange data with Sony devices.

Sony sells about 100 million electronic devices a year, including video recorders, home stereo systems, television and portable computers. Ando said the company is committed to making all these devices capable of networking.

Sony also showed off its coming massive home digital storage module. The as-yet unnamed device will be able to hold 1,000 gigabytes of information, which is large enough to hold the data from 240 DVDs, plus 2000 CDs and a massive amount of computer files.

AFP

Gates gives vision of 'digital decade'

LAS VEGAS—Despite an economic landscape of dead start-ups and battered high-tech companies, Microsoft Corp. chair Bill Gates says innovation is still alive and will fuel what he calls the "digital decade."

In a keynote address Sunday to kick off the massive Comdex trade show, Gates outlined his vision of a connected—and highly mobile—society, one that he says will surpass the technological feats of the last 25 years.

"We have not even scratched the surface of what we can do," Gates said.

It's the vision of a world where the number of people using e-mail to communicate will quadruple from today and where e-commerce will finally take off in the way visionaries and analysts have talked about for years.

Gates also predicted the percentage of American homes with PCs will grow from just over 50 percent to 75 percent by 2010. And many of the households will have more than one.

The PC, however, is only one part of that vision. Gates unveiled new prototypes of Tablet PC, a pen-based device that is expected to include wireless networking capabilities.

"The Tablet PC is going to be revolutionary," he said.

As envisioned, the Tablet PC would be a full-powered PC that runs on Microsoft's Windows XP operating system. It would function as a digital sheet of paper, allowing users to take handwritten notes on the device or create e-mails in handwriting, and then link the data with their laptops or desktops.

Gates unveiled the tablet as a concept at last year's show, but this year showed off working prototypes of models that computer manufacturers plan to sell in the second half of next year.

Gates predicted the device would be the most popular form of the personal computer five years from now.

The showstopper of the keynote was a demonstration of Microsoft's Xbox game console, due to be released Thursday. The crowd roared when he gave away free consoles to four audience members.

Gates closed by urging the techno-savvy audience to forge ahead with their ideas.

"There's more opportunity for us to improve the world than anyone else," he said. "So let's go out and do it."

AP

Toyota, IHI to set up turbo joint venture

TOKYO—Japanese heavy machinery maker Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co. Ltd. said Tuesday it would establish a joint venture next year in Thailand with Toyota Motor Corp. to produce turbo chargers.

Capitalized at some one billion yen ($8.3 million), IHI Turbo Thai aims initially to sell 20,000 turbo chargers a month, doubling capacity to 40,000 by 2006, a spokesman for IHI said.

"We have decided to set up the venture on the back of rising demand for turbo chargers in Thailand. We will sell them in the Thai market but hope to expand our sales in other parts of Asia," he said.

IHI exports 200,000 turbo chargers, used to compress air to help diesel engines, to Thailand annually.

The machinery maker would take a 90-percent stake in the venture with the remaining 10 percent going to Japan's top car firm Toyota, the spokesman said.

AFP

Coca-Cola to invest $150M in China

SHANGHAI—Coca-Cola Co., the world's No. 1 soft drink company, plans to invest $150 million in China over the next five years to open six bottling plants, a company spokeswoman said on Tuesday.

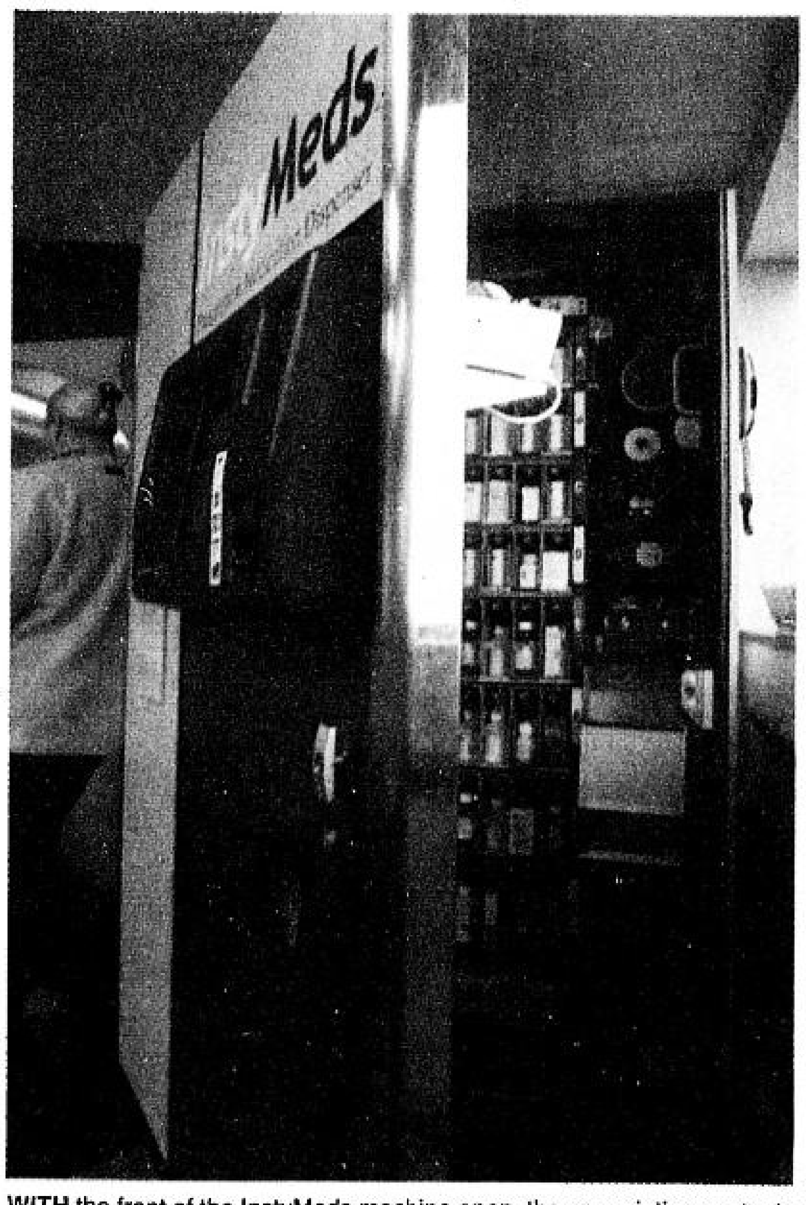
"Currently, we have 28 bottling facilities and if we are going to build six more, then in total, in the next few years, we will have 34," Coca-Cola China spokeswoman Brenda Lee told Reuters.

"And our additional investment will be about $150 million over five years," she said.

Lee said the Atlanta-based company had confirmed two plant locations—one in Changsha in the central province of Hunan province and another in Changchun in Jilin province in the northeast.

"They are scheduled to be opened sometime next year," she said.

Reuters



WITH the front of the InstyMeds machine open, the prescription contents are set up much like a vending machine at the South Lake Pediatrics clinic in Minnetonka, Minnessota. The prescription dispenser, which is the first of its kind, requires the user to provide responses on an electronic touch screen and pay with a credit card.

AP

RESCUING PRICES

Opec planning fourth output cut this year

VIENNA—Energy chiefs from the Opec oil exporting cartel were converging on Vienna on Tuesday to agree on a deep cut in output and urge rivals outside the club to follow suit to put a floor under falling crude prices.

Oil ministers from the 11-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries told reporters on arriving here that they were in favor of a fourth cut in output this year to rescue prices, which had slumped around 25 percent to two-year lows since the events of Sept. 11.

Opec nations agree that output must be cut by at least one million barrels a day—more than 6 percent of current production. Some are calling for a cutback as deep as 1.5 million barrels per day.

"The consensus is at least one" million barrels a day, said Opec president Chakib Khelil, Algerian oil minister, on his arrival here early Tuesday.

"In any case, we are going to bring the prices up to $25 a barrel," Khelil added.

"That would be the most likely figure," an Opec source said, adding that the ministers could agree to less, but only if they could get better commitments from member states to adhere strictly to quota ceilings.

"If the ministers agree on keeping a lid on cheating, then they would head for a smaller cut, although not less than 1 million," he said. "Maybe they would settle for less, maybe between 1.3-1.5 million."

The 11-member cartel, which produces 40 percent of the world's crude and which has seen prices slump to two-year lows since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, is likely to implement the cuts rapidly.

"It's very possible that they will do the cut next month because I don't think they can wait another two months," said the source. Until recently, it had been assumed any cuts would not be implemented until Jan. 1.

Opec hopes that the cut, which will mean it has reduced output by almost 20 percent this year alone, will help revive prices by trimming supply to take account of a fall-off in demand.

But energy chiefs also insisted that non-Opec producers fell in line to make the move more effective.

Ministers were privately disappointed by a gesture from Russia, one of the world's largest oil producers. Moscow promised an effort last week to reduce output, but said Monday that just 30,000 barrels a day would be skimmed from export volumes.

"Thirty thousand will not do anything," said one Opec source here, requesting anonymity. "It's nonsense to make that cut. You either make a proper cut or you don't cut at all." He said Opec was looking for a cut 10 times that size from Russia.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Alvaro Silva Calderon said Opec needed more from its rivals.

"We are going to insist on the cooperation of non-Opec countries to stabilize the market," he said, adding: "We want non-Opec countries to cut by 500,000" bpd.

"It is in the interests of all countries including Opec and non-Opec, as well as consumers," he added.

Khelil, for his part, said he was not disappointed by the Russian token gesture. "We have to confirm (the figure) officially but I think we're going to have much more" from non-Opec, he said.

Opec noises in Vienna did little for the weak crude markets in London and New York on Monday, where prices fell more than a dollar a barrel.

Part of the weakness stemmed from the New York plane crash, but the market was also unsure whether an output squeeze could help oil prices at the moment. Similar cutbacks in other commodities, notably metals, had not helped because the demand picture was so grim amid the global economic slowdown.

Analysts have, in any case, expressed skepticism at Opec's efforts to massage supply so as to revive the market. They noted that the cartel had produced well above its current output ceiling in recent months and would have to display greater discipline before it could expect a helping hand from non-Opec.

"One must always emphasize that these are cuts on paper," said Leo Drollas, an oil expert with the Center for Global Energy Studies. "We have been here before and they don't produce the actual cuts. They agree on paper but they don't follow it through."

He predicted little assistance from non-Opec producers, even though Mexico reportedly agreed on Sunday that output had to be cut.

"Opec is moving forward more in hope than experience," Drollas said. "It's wishful thinking." *AFP*

Firms in China, Taiwan face recession squeeze

HONG KONG—US-based ratings agency Standard and Poor's said Tuesday that credit quality of many companies in the greater China region would inevitably come under pressure as a result of the worldwide economic recession.

Standard and Poor's said in a report that Taiwan companies were likely to deteriorate further as the island's economy faced a worsening slump in the electronics industry due to the slowdown in its largest export market, the United States.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong companies were on the verge of another recession following a slight rebound from the previous Asian financial crisis, the ratings agency said.

It said mainland Chinese companies would be hit on external trade, which would be offset by domestic demand, adding "the ongoing state-owned enterprise reforms together with the closed nature of China's economy will continue to shield mainland companies from worldwide volatility."

"Although the credit quality of many companies in the greater China region will come under pressure due to the fallout of the worldwide economic recession, the severity will vary from market to market," said Paul Coughlin, Standard and Poor's managing director in Hong Kong.

Standard and Poor's report surveyed 155 rated and unrated industrial, infrastructure, utility and public sector entities in greater China which encompasses Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and the Chinese mainland. *AFP*

Tokio Marine, Asahi Mutual in alliance talks

TOKYO—Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. and Asahi Mutual Life Insurance Co. Ltd. said Tuesday they were in talks about merging Asahi with the Tokio subsidiary as early as March 2003.

"We are discussing ways to merge Asahi and Tokio's subsidiary Tokio Marine Life by March 2003," rather than 2004, a spokesman for Asahi said.

Under the discussed plan, Asahi's new contracts from March 2002 would be handled by Tokio Marine Life.

To make the plan workable, Asahi would embark on a major restructuring involving cutting 1,000 jobs in the coming two years, the Asahi spokesman said.

"We have yet to decide how to cut the jobs. It's bound to include natural attrition. But other details are not yet decided," the spokesman said.

The Tokio Marine and Asahi Mutual merger will not affect the overall timing of a more comprehensive integration set for 2004, however.

Tokio Marine and Asahi Mutual announced in September last year they were planning to forge a comprehensive alliance, the Millea Insurance Group, by 2004, along with Kyoei Fire and Marine Insurance Co. Ltd. and Marine Insurance Co. Ltd., and Nichido Fire and Marine Insurance Co. Ltd. *AFP*

Vodafone takes $9.7-B hit on takeovers

LONDON—British mobile telephony giant Vodafone said on Tuesday that it is taking a charge of 6.7 billion pounds (11 billion euros, $9.7 billion) to cover a fall in the value of assets snapped up during the telecoms boom.

Vodafone also announced pre-tax profits before exceptional items of 3 billion pounds for the six months to September, an increase of 65 percent from the same period the previous year.

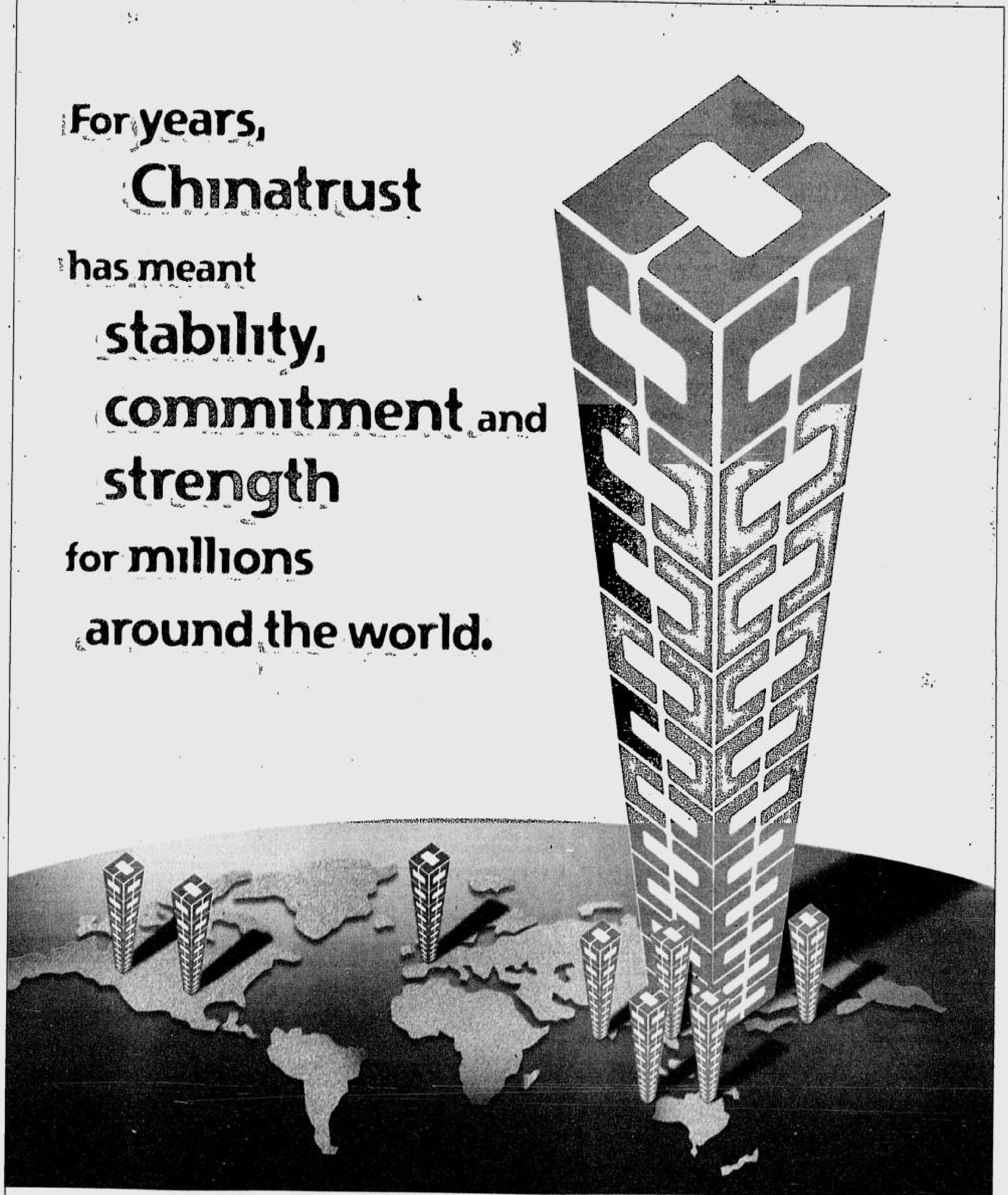
But asset write-downs and other exceptional costs dug deep into Vodafone's bottom line, leaving it with losses of 8.5 billion pounds.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization—the company's preferred measure of financial performance—rose by 46 percent to 4.78 billion pounds in the half year to September.

"These results show excellent financial performance with robust growth in Ebitda, operating profit and earnings per share, improved margins and strong cash flow generation," said chief executive Christopher Gent.

"This growth in all respects is better than we expected following the realignments to our strategy announced earlier this year.

"Vodafone's enhanced global leadership position, excellent progress on new products and service initiatives, combined with our better operational performance, is delivering strong growth momentum which serves to highlight both the defensive as well as growth qualities of Vodafone." *AFP*



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MARIKINA

1511m² Ipil St., w/Pool Near S-Mall 6M 634-1212

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

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QUEZON CITY

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Congressional Ave L-479m² Comm'l Lot Call 928-1469

D Tuazon SMH QC L-411m² 2Stry Call 928-1469

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Edsa Alng H-way L-3000 V-Lot Call 928-1469

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Samat St SMH QC L-600m² 5Stry w/Bldg / Whse Call 928-1469

SFDM QC L-624 2Sty Warehse Call 928-1469

RIZAL

5-Bdrm Bungalow Antipolo Dir Buyer Only T-8108321

Cainta Country Homes P1.85M 30% DP 30 Yrs Call 656-6491

Nr Antipolo Church P1.8 LA-346 FA-150 634-1212

PROVINCIAL

San Jose Vill Sta Rosa Laguna L-151 or 174 Call 928-1469

Tagaytay Candonwood Club Shares Call 928-1469

Tagaytay L-286m² 2Sty 3br 3tb 1 car Call 928-1469

LOT

ALABANG

Ayala Alabang area:600m² 4121825 09177914366

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MUNTINLUPA

★HBoro 400m² 9124974/5413

PARANAQUE

CHEAP Multinatl lot 120sqm Call 523-7829

PASIG

Valle Verde IV 869m² Call 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

Baesa QC L-932 4 Ind. Lot Call 928-1469

Del Monte L-800m² V-Lot Call 928-1469

Fairview QC L-1000m² V-Lot Call 928-1469

Marcos Hiway Comm'l LOT L-317 V-LOT 928-1469

MH del Pilar SFDM QC 425m² 7.3M • 372-6398

New Mla Rollin Hills L-725 V-lot Cor. Lot 928-1469

Rollin Hills V-Lot L-725 Corner Lot Call 928-1469

RIZAL

Oro Vista 1.4M 681-0610

OTHER AREAS

LINCOLN 714m² P12T/m² V/Lot 372-6398 • 920-2001

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

308m² Visaya Ave 4 Lease 9281469

MAKATI

2BR 1.5M RENT TO OWN 5758367 8674916 09192176735

Bonifacio Ridge Mktl Pre-Selling Call 928-1469

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10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
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MANDALUYONG

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 534-6610 Jojo

PASIG

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Alexandra
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Horizon 140m² 2BR Md's Rm 1carpk 5M 4121825 RUSH!

ORTIGAS CTR 1-3BR Sale / Rent. 4121825 09177914366

QUEZON CITY

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Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% D/P 9126976 ; 9120647 ; 4381161

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Townhouse Woodside New Mla., Q.C. • 915-5177

SAN JUAN

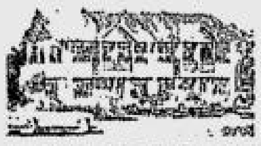
G'hils Cortijos 3BR P5.5M 1 Beverly P6.5-7M 723-2391

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

OTHER AREAS

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd.,
Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000



COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000
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815-2144	829-5081
776-4604	872-7603
810-7297	871-8318

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SAN JUAN

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2-Bdrm Apt. Pandacan 2-Storey Call 842-6009

3BR 401 VG CRUZ 8315945

PASAY

M TENGCO MALIBAY 8315945

QUEZON CITY

Strong H2O Bck COD Call 9112092 Scrnd Cubao 5th

HOUSE

MANILA

523 Montana St. Sampaloc 731-1002 P8000 2BR

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

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Kalayaan cor. Makati Ave.
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SAN JUAN

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VLot EDSA Manda LA245m² 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

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MALE aircon nr LSalle Call 5227127 cel(0916)3688574

WANTED TO BUY

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VAB NR TERMINALS 8315945

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Ortigas Ctr. No Dues 120-450m² ● 412-1825

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

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58m²@P249 also ideal
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•98H100 P253T 927-6597•

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L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

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STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

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2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

Dog Trainer 09192050952

URGENTLY NEEDED

FINANCE ASSISTANT

☑ Male, not more than 27 years of age
☑ B.S. Accounting or B.S. Finance graduate (CPA preferred but not a must)
☑ Working experience in credit and collection, financial analysis and budget preparation acquired from trading business would be an advantage
☑ Computer literate
☑ Self-motivated and quality results-oriented
☑ Good verbal and written communication skills
☑ Good inter-personal relation skills

Qualified candidates may apply in person or mail their application letters, with comprehensive bio-data, copy of transcript of records, recent 2" x 2" picture to:

MENZI & CO., INC.
20/F Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Metro Manila

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

TRAINER 4528681/0919-7219020

SPORTING GOODS

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

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Honest Manda Off. 741-6099

MARKETING ASST. 899-4470

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DECS-NCR-Division of Marikina City;
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NURSES w/CGFNS, TOEFL, TSE 2yrs hosp exp 4 US hosp placement POBox 6728 Moraga, CA 94570 USA
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•OFFICE STAFF 9134470 CARL

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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P6500 One day including eyelash perming kit. Nov. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 Register Now!! Look for Blanca Tel#2453701/0917-9902269

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

CUSTOMS DECLARANT

a. B.S. Customs Administration graduate
b. At least two (2) years experience as Declarant
c. Computer literate (Word and Excel)
d. Female, single, not more than 25 years old
e. Good moral character

ACCOUNTING STAFF

a. BSA or BSBA graduate
b. At least two (2) years experience in general accounting
c. Computer literate (Word and Excel)
d. Female, single, not more than 25 years old
e. Hardworking and trustworthy

Apply in person and bring your transcript of records and other credentials at:

TRANSMAN BROKERAGE & TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Room 211 Auro-Vir Plaza, 1695 Evangelista Street
corner Gen. Lacuna, Bangkal, Makati City
Look for Ms. Arlene S. Cruz

PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **FORTUNATO A. RIVERA JR.** has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. 151 Pge 32 Bk 10, series 2001 of Not. Pub Lucas V. Sugui
(PDI-11⅞, 14, 21, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of BPI Cert No. 175733 (1820 shares) in the name of Catalina I. Medina
(PDI-Nov. 7, 14 & 21,2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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897-8808 loc. 514, 516
899-4425, 897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

KALAW
528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL
635-0219, 635-0220

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED OFFER

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Special Accounts Management Department, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. corner Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LDA-123	72 Apple St., Km. 18, Maywood Village II, Parañaque City.	340 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. 146227) with building and improvements	P 5,882,100.00
CRA-03a	Tugatog St. Veinte Reales, Valenzuela	1,000 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. V-57731) with buildings and improvements	P 4,194,900.00
LTY-143	2072 Anonas St., Sta. Mesa	300.2 m² residential lot (TCT No. 245737) with building and improvements	P 3,602,400.00
CRA-03b	Tugatog St. Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City	375 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. V-57732) with building and improvements, and one (1) tanning and one (1) cylindrical drum	P 2,101,900.00
CRA-13a	Don Pedro Reyes St., Victoria Homes, Bo. Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	525 m² vacant residential lot (Lot 29-TCT No. 3273)	P 1,207,500.00
CRA-13b	Don Pedro Reyes St., Victoria Homes, Bo. Tunasan, Muntinlupa City	525 m² vacant residential lot (Lot 31-TCT No. 3271)	P 1,207,500.00
BULACAN			
VAB-80	Brgy. Lambakin, San Miguel	40,000 m² agricultural lot (TCT No. T-138507) with ten (10) poultry buildings, and other buildings and improvements.	P 11,398,300.00
VJC-34	Provincial Road, Bo. Sto. Niño, Paombong	1,000 m² residential/commercial lots (TCT No. T-61567 and 61568) with hospital building and various hospital and office equipment.	P 5,568,000.00
PAMPANGA			
MGT-74	Sitio Paralaya, Bo. Rosario, Mexico	888 m² residential lot (TCT No. 307931-R)	P 170,500.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
CRA-10	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	One (1) lot Ice Tube Making machinery & equipment.	P 1,320,000.00
2LAO-01	Brgy. Namuco, Rosario, Batangas	Remaining parts of oil milling machinery	P 776,000.00
2LAO-02	Brgy. Namuco, Rosario, Batangas	Motor truck scale Toledo Print Weigh "400"	P 612,000.00
VPI-81	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	One (1) unit Road Grader, HUBER WARCO	P 200,000.00
2LAO-03	Brgy. Namuco, Rosario, Batangas	Three (3) units industrial transformers, 100-KVA	P 187,500.00
VPI-62a,c, e, I & p	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	Five (5) units of construction/heavy equipment	P 107,800.00 to P 498,900.00 per unit

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from SAM's Acquired Assets Sales Units.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V.
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M;
920-4794 and 920-4781 for Code starting with C; and
818-9511 loc. 1429 for Code starting with 2L.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI--Nov. 14, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
ORIENTAL MINDORO
BRANCH XXXIX (39)
City of Calapan

IN RE: PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF MINORS RAFAELA FALIA U. MENDOZA AND MARY ANN U. MENDOZA,

SPL. PROC. NO. R-5035

JAMES R. BATTISTA and MIRAFLOR L. FAJARDO-BATTISTA,
Petitioners.

x---x

ORDER

A verified amended petition having been filed by the petitioners, Spouses James R. Battista and Miraflor L. Fajardo-Battista, the petitioner husband being a citizen of the United States while petitioner wife is a Filipina by consanguinity, her parents being both Filipinos. Petitioner Miraflor L. Fajardo is now a naturalized citizen of the United States of America having acquired her citizenship since September 7, 1982 and now the petitioners have their temporary residence at PCS 2, Box 10977, APO, AE, 09012 American Air Base, Germany, praying that minors Mary Ann U. Mendoza and Rafaela Falia U. Mendoza, both single, 13 and 14 years old, respectively be declared for all intent and purposes the children of the said spouses by adoption and finding the said petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court orders that the petition be set for hearing on December 4, 2001 at eight thirty in the morning, before this court sitting at the Hall of Justice, Provincial Capitol Complex, Camilmil, Calapan City, with notice to any and all persons interested to show cause, if any, why the same should not be granted.

The Social Worker Officer II of the Regional Trial Court of Calapan City is hereby directed to conduct a case study as required by Art. 33 of Presidential Decree No. 603, as amended, in the first instance and independently of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and thereafter, submit her report and recommendation to this Court pursuant to R.A. No. 8369, otherwise known as the "Family Courts Act of 1997" not later than December 4, 2001, the date when this case is scheduled for hearing.

ACCORDINGLY, let copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in an accredited newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, and let copy of this Order be furnished the Solicitor General, #34 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, the Provincial Prosecutor of Oriental Mindoro and the Social Worker Officer II of the Regional Trial Court, Calapan City, for their information and guidance.

SO ORDERED.

City of Calapan, November 7, 2001.

(Sgd.) MANUEL C. LUNA, JR.
Judge

(PDI--Nov. 14, 21 & 28, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ALBAY
CITY OF LIGAO
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: **November 14, 2001**
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the **Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)** and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. 0139706-A for the Construction of Tastas Multi-Purpose Center with drying pavement, located at Tastas ARC, Ligao, Albay, Province. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The city of Ligao, Albay and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project: Description of the Project: Construction of Tastas MPC with drying pavement.

Item	Scope of Work	Quantity	Unit
I	Excavation for Structures	93.00	cu.m.
II	Backfilling and Fill Materials	70.00	cu.m.
III	Concrete Works	88.00	cu.m.
IV	Masonry Works	313.50	sq.m.
V	Steel Works	6,115.69	Kgs.
VI	Forms & Scaffolding	4,800.00	Bd. Ft.
VII	Doors & Windows	22.54	sq.m.
VIII	Tileworks	8.91	sq.m.
IX	Painting Works	708.48	sq.m.
X	Plumbing Works	LS	cu.m.
XI	Electrical	20.00	outlet

Bid Security: **P20,000.00**
Bid Closing Date: **December 17, 2001, 2:00 PM**
Project Duration: **150 calendar days**

Minimum Equipment's Required

One (1) unit concrete bagger mixer, Three (3) units - concrete vibrator

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchased by interested bidders at above office starting **November 15, 2001**, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM upon payment of a non-refundable fee of three thousand pesos only (P3,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **December 12, 2001** at 10:00 AM at the City of the City Mayor, Ligao, Albay.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the City Mayor, Ligao, Albay, on or before the bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **HON. FERNANDO V. GONZALES**
Municipal Mayor/Chairman, PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI – Nov. 14, 2001)

---

wistron

[illegible]

**** OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION ****

CSD MANAGER

Qualifications:

☐ Male • Less than 35 years old • Preferably can speak Chinese fluently • A graduate of Electrical Engineering • Must have a good communication skills • Must have 2 years experience in repairing motherboards specifically Notebook computer and server • Familiar with all aspect of computer operation (software & hardware) • Familiar with problem solving and failure analysis.

Requirements:

■ Updated resumé with recent photo • Diploma / Transcript of Records • Birth Certificate • Employment Certificate

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:

MR. ROMMEL AQUINO
Division Chief, Recruitment Division
SBMA-Labor Center
Rm. 136, Building 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2222

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
SAN CARLOS CITY (PANGASINAN)
BRANCH 56

VIVIAN CUDIAMAT-COLLADO,
Plaintiff/Petitioner,
-versus-
CIVIL CASE NO. SCC-2463
MAURO COLLADO,
Defendant/Respondent.
x---x

SUMMONS

TO: MAURO COLLADO - #90 A. Luna Street, Bambang, Pasig City

You are hereby required to enter your appearance in the above-entitled case and to aswer the complaint of the plaintiff within a period of sixty (60) days from the last publication of a copy of the special summons in a national newspaper of general circulation. If you fail to appear within the time fixed aforesaid, the plaintiff will take judgment against you by default and demand from this court the relief applied in said complaint.

San Carlos City (Pangasinan), October 19, 2001.

(Sgd.) LUIS M. FONTANILLA
Acting Presiding Judge

(PDI--Oct. 31, Nov. 7 & 14, 2001)

PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA
(University of the City of Manila)
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested bidders are invited to prequalify and participate in a sealed bidding for the following projects:

	Pre-Bid	Bidding
JANITORIAL SERVICES (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2002)	Dec. 3, 2001 2:00 P.M.	Dec. 12, 2001 2:00 P.M.
SECURITY SERVICES (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2002)	Dec. 3, 2001 3:00 P.M.	Dec. 12, 2001 3:00 P.M.

Prequalification Information Sheet may be obtained from the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs (527-7941 to 48 loc. 16), after paying the corresponding non-refundable fee, and duly accomplished forms together with the required prequalification statements/documents are to be submitted not later than November 23, 2001.

PLM reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids to waive any informality found therein or to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA N. SANTOS**
Chairman, Prequalification, Evaluation, Bidding, and Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 14, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received an ODA Loan from JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 5,728 million Yen towards the cost of the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project, Loan Agreement No. PH-P190 signed on 10 September 1998, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for Equipment Procurement for the Immediate Improvements of Bacolod and Tacloban Airports.
The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Transportation and Communications, now request bids from suppliers for the supply and delivery of the following equipment (the "Goods") in a one-package contract:

TACLOBAN

Item No.	Equipment	Quantity
1	Mechanical Sweeper	1
2	Multi-disk Mower	1
3	Tractor	1
4	Dump Truck	1
5	Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicle	3
6	X-ray Scanner for Check-in Baggage	1
7	X-ray Scanner for Hand-carried Baggage	1
8	Spare Parts/Consumables	1 lot

BACOLOD

Item No.	Equipment	Quantity
1	Mechanical Sweeper	1
2	Multi-disk Mower	1
3	Tractor	1
4	Dump Truck	1
5	Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicle	3
6	X-ray Scanner for Check-in Baggage	2
7	X-ray Scanner for Hand-carried Baggage	2
8	Spare Parts/Consumables	1 lot

Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans." No party other than the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines will take appropriate measures for finance.

2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:
   (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. The Department of Transportation and Communications now invites sealed bids in a two-envelope system from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of the Goods for the purpose of the Project,
4. The minimum requirement for qualification of a supplier are:
   (a) average annual turnover as prime supplier (defined as billing for works in progress and completed) over the last 5 years of US$ 50 million;
   (b) successful experience as prime supplier in the execution of at least 3 projects of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract within the last 10 years; and
   (c) obtain an exclusive sales agreement for this Project from manufacturers of the fire fighting vehicles and X-ray scanners, which shall have been manufacturing similar equipment for not less than ten (10) years.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

   The Project Director
   Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project
   DOTC-Project Management Office
   Unit 7D, 7th Floor, Strata 2000 Building,
   Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila
   Telephone: +63 (2) 637-1187
   Facsimile: +63 (2) 637-3061
6. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased from **19 November 2001** up to **21 November 2001** (from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM), by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 10,000 Pesos or US$ 200 at the DOTC Cashier's Office, 5th Floor, the Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City.
7. The estimated date of award is on **July 2002.**
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 5,000,000 Pesos and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before 2:00 PM on **16 January 2002** at the DOTC Project Management Office, Unit 7D, 7th Flr., Strata 2000 Building Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter.
9. The Department of Transportation and Communications will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

(Sgd.) ALAN ADENA TAN
SPBAC Chairman

(PDI – Nov. 10, 14 & 19, 2001)

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

JOB MARKET

Mary Mediatrix Medical Center
J.P. Laurel Highway, Lipa City
Department of Medicine

IN NEED OF RESIDENT PHYSICIANS

The Department of Internal Medicine of Mary Mediatrix Medical Center is actively recruiting five (5) first year residents for its PCP-Accredited Residency Training Program to start January 1, 2002.

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Chief of Clinics	Training Officer
Robert M. Magsino, M.D., DPCP, Dipl. ABIM	Jose Felipe G. Hernandez, M.D., FPCP

Training Committee Members:
Sonia C. Comia, M.D., FPCP
Edgardo F. Faustino, M.D., DPCP Dipl. ABIM & Neph.
Tito C. Atienza, M.D., FPCP
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Reena Katigbak-Pompa, M.D., FPCP
Arlene Gana, M.D., DPCP
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Milo Villena, M.D., FPCP

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E-mail addresses: purch@pnoc-ec.com.ph or rbasallo@pnoc-ec.com.ph

INVITATION TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites all eligible suppliers and/or contractors to submit sealed bids for the supply, delivery and installation with accessories of:

3 UNITS DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER and PRIMARY METERING PR NO. BX 214 324

This invitation is open to all accredited suppliers of PNOC EC Energy Group of Companies.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance to accredited suppliers starting November 12, 2001.

For purposes of clarification, a pre-bidding conference will be conducted on November 28, 2001, 1:00 p.m., at the Energy Supply Base Admin. Building, Mainaga, Mabini, Batangas.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount stipulated in the tender documents and in the form acceptable to PNOC EC. Sealed technical and financial bids in two (2) sets shall be received by PNOC EC's Purchasing Department not later than 2:00 p.m., Manila time, December 11, 2001 at the above address. Late bids shall not be accepted. Public opening of the technical bids shall follow thereafter. The schedule of the opening of financial bids shall be formally announced to the participating bidders and only the bids of the technically complying bidders shall be opened.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL E. DEL PILAR**
Vice President & COO

(PDI--Nov. 14, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF QUEZON
MUNICIPALITY OF BUENAVISTA
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: November 14, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. 01 394 07 S-Q for the *Construction of Sitio Centro-Sitio Tiwtiw Road* located at SADCATUSAN-ARC, Buenavista, Quezon. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Buenavista and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invite sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
100	Clearing & Grubbing	21,000.00 sq.m.
102	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	10,240.00 cu.m.
103	Structure Excavation	712.40 cu.m.
104	Embankment	8,536.00 cu.m.
200	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	1,260.00 cu.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	852.00 cu.m.
311	PCCP	1,440.00 sq.m.
500-a	RCP Culverts (0.60 m dia.)	48.00 l.m.
500-b	RCP Culverts (0.90 m dia.)	10.00 l.m.
500-c	RCP Culverts (1.20 m dia.)	16.00 l.m.
504	Grouted Riprap	26.00 cm.
SPL-a	Lined Canal	136.00 cu.m.

Bid Security : P100,000.00
Bid Closing Date : December 14, 2001, 10:00 a.m.
Project Duration : 130 calendar days

Minimum Equipment's Required

Bulldozer-owned; Road Grader-owned; Vibratory (12 ton min) Road Roller-owned;Loader-owned/leased; 3 units Dump Truck-owned; Water truck-owned/leased.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting **November 15, 2001, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of three thousand five hundred pesos only (P3,500.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **December 7, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Buenavista, Quezon on or before the above bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **HON. RAMON R. REYES**
Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI - Nov 14, 2001)

President Arroyo launches Genyong Pinoy

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently launched Genyong Pinoy, a seal of quality on products made by beneficiaries of the micro-finance program of ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation. She also donated P1 million for the project.

The launch was held Nov. 7 during the 73rd birth anniversary of the late Eugenio Lopez, Jr., chair emeritus of the broadcasting corporation, at the Eugenio Lopez Jr. Communications Center Restaurant, Quezon City. In attendance were the late chair's close friends, business associates, and family members led by his brother, Oscar Lopez and sister, Presy Lopez Psinakis.

"My father believed in doing business that will provide service for the poor," says Gina Lopez, president of Bayan Foundation. "He also wanted to help them improve their quality of life. Genyong Pinoy, named in his honor, is pushing micro-finance a step further by filling in the vacuum of most micro-finance entrepreneurs which is marketing. It will help Filipinos realize their dreams of marketing quality products."

The men and women behind Genyong Pinoy are Otta Montinola, Camille Samson, Basil Ong, Ramon Tengco, professor Rene Gayo, Ph. D., of the University of Asia and the Pacific, and Nimrod de la Pena, project manager.

Genyong Pinoy (GP) aims to showcase competitive products made by Filipino micro-entrepreneurs. It will evaluate the items and recommend areas for improvement. Products that pass the Genyong Pinoy screening will be sealed with the GP seal of quality.

The sealed products will be promoted aggressively through mass media campaigns, display of products in establishing locations and mobile exhibits. The expected result would be an increased market demand for these products, thereby helping ensure a continuous financial success for the foundation's more than 20,000 client-beneficiaries.

HANDOG SALE OPENING

Ambassador Macario Laurel (left), Iya Guingona, Citibyke image model, and Victor Turdanes cut the ceremonial ribbon during the grand opening of Handog Sale at Cosmic Center. With them are Sharon Tan and Ma. Cecilia Jalandoni. Cosmic Center also houses the Planet Cellular, a complete arcade of cellular phones at deferred payment scheme of up to six installments, accessories, repair and 8-percent discount on pre-paid cards.

HOM seminar on volunteer programs

Hands on Manila (HOM) Foundation Inc., a private, non-profit organization focused on fostering the spirit of volunteerism, will be holding a seminar on "Managing Volunteer Programs" on Nov. 15 at the University of Asia and the Pacific. Keynote speaker is Lissa Hilsee, executive director of Philadelphia Cares who will speak on the success of the City Cares model of flexible volunteer programs and services. The seminar is sponsored in partnership with the International Visitor's Program Alumni Philippines and the UAP School of Management. For reservations, call HOM office at 843-7044, or e-mail handsonmla@pinoymail.com.

Eagles of Hope

The public is invited to the "Eagles of Hope" Christmas Bazaar slated from Nov. 16 to 18, College Covered Courts, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Christmas shoppers may choose from a wide array of gift items, clothes, accessories, and food items from the bazaar's 115 stalls. Two variety shows have been scheduled: on Nov. 16, 4 p.m. hosted by Dingdong Dantes and Audrey Tan. On Nov. 17, Talk 'N Text trio Dominic Ochoa, Marvin Agustin and Rico Yan will be joined by Dulaang Sibol, SAYAW, Bukas-Palad and the Ateneo Chamber Singers. The beneficiary of the bazaar is the Faculty and Staff General Fund. For more information, call the Office Planning and Development and Alumni Affairs at 426-6001 loc. 4083 and 84.

Soroptimist Women's opportunity awards

Soroptimist International Philippines Region (SIPR) recently launched one of its major award programs—The Women's Opportunity Awards—in partnership with Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA), the Soroptimist Federation with which SIPR is affiliated. The program is designed for and offers cash grants to women heads of households who are the sole or primary breadwinners for their families and who are presently enrolled in an undergraduate course in a college or university but find it difficult to pursue their studies because of financial circumstances. A total of US$1 million in awards is allocated for 2001. Applications should be filed on or before Nov. 15. For inquiries, call the SIPR headquarters at 4006 Cordillera Street, Barangay Olympia, Makati City, telefax 896-9641 or 895-6056.

Improving service quality

The Productivity and Development Center of the Development Academy of the Philippines (PDC-DAP) is inviting senior and middle managers, department/section heads and productivity officers of public and private service organizations to its Seminar on Measuring Service Quality on Nov. 15 and 16 at the Audio-Visual Room, DAP Pasig Conference Center. Interested applicants can call PDC at 631-2137 or 631-0921 to 30 loc. 171. Look for Norman Nangca or Ayin Buensuceso.

Marriage Encounter weekend

Couples are invited to the Marriage Encounter Weekend to be conducted by the Magis Deo Community from Nov. 16 to 18 at the Betania Retreat House in Tagaytay City. For details, call the Magis Deo secretariat at 891-1178 or 891-1014.

Real estate mathematics

The Urban Institute of Real Estate announced that it will again conduct the lecture on Real Estate Mathematics at the 2nd Floor, Joni's Bakeshop, Pasay Road corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City today, 1:30 to 7 p.m. The five-hour lecture covers the principles and mathematical computations related to interest, interest formulas, cash flow diagrams, Present Value, Future Value, sinking fund, equal periodic amortization, and graduated periodic payments. For inquiries, call Urban Institute at 681-0928 and 681-0953 or at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

2 French chefs for cuisine training

Two acclaimed master chefs from Le Cordon Bleu of Paris, a renowned institution for porfessional training in culinary arts, have arrived and are scheduled for a series of culinary training activities to promote gastronomic excellence among culinary arts students, hotel industry pros and food lovers. They will be at the Asturias Hotel in Puerto Princesa City on Nov. 15 and 16 and at Shangri-la's Mactan Island Resort Hotel in Cebu City from Nov. 16 to 18. For inquiries, call Inter-Ed at 819-1001, 819-1002 or visit its office at the second floor of Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. de la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

Romulo launches solidarity covenant

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo leads participants to the launching of the Solidarity Covenant on Nov. 14 at the Makati Shangri-La Manila. The launch is one of the major highlights of the 2nd Solidarity Congress on Governance Reforms co-organized by the Institute of Solidarity in Asia (ISA). Through this conference, the private sector, specifically business and civil society will once more coordinate with government through initiatives of its own to supplement the governance program for the country.

Tambuli Resorts promos

Tambuli Resorts announces its Price Slash Plus promo where the guest with a minimum purchase of two nights for October can avail of an extra night for free. The extra free night can also be claimed in the form of a gift certificate valid up to Nov. 15. Tambuli Resorts has two properties in Cebu—the Tambuli Beach Club and Cebu Beach Club—and one in Bohol, the Bohol Beach Club and Blue Sky Resort. For more inquiries call 522-2302 or 522-2303.

Barakalan 2001: Christmas Fair in November

This year's Barakalan promises the best and the finest of Southern Tagalog products. On sale in time for the gift giving this Christmas season are gifts and toys, handicrafts, home decors, footwear, and furniture. Barakalan 2001 runs at the MegaTrade Hall I at the SM MegaMall in Mandaluyong City from Nov. 15 to 19. The Barakalan is an annual fair sponsored by the Regional Development Council IV, the Southern Tagalog Association of Regional Executives, and the Department of Trade and Industry IV.

Oyster Fest at Island Cove

Celebrate the start of the Holiday season at Island Cove Resort and Leisure Park with its first-ever "Oyster Fest". Ongoing until Nov. 15, new, exciting and delectable oyster dishes will be featured. Oyster dishes are priced reasonably, from P140 to P200. Visit Island Cove at Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite or call (046)434-0210. Makati sales office: 810-3740. Toll-free numbers: 810-3718/32/64, and 810-5638 for more details. Check out www.islandcovephil.com or e-mail islacove.info.com.ph.

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Message of Thanks

ZENAIDA CAPILI LUMBA

August 20, 1932 -- November 3, 2001

The Lumba-Capili family would like to express profound gratitude for your spontaneous love, sympathy and support at her untimely demise on November 3, 2001.

We found strength and are humbly grateful to God in knowing that she touched so many lives and organizations in her concern for others. She will continue to live in our hearts.

We wish to express as well, our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and message of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

A Mass will be offered on Thursday, November 15, 2001 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church at 6:30 p.m. to culminate our 9-day novena.

THE SADNESS OF DEATH GIVES WAY
TO THE BRIGHT PROMISE OF IMMORTALITY
Preface of the mass for the dead

ON THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF

JOSE D. ASPIRAS

SON OF AGOO, LA UNION
PAPAL KNIGHT, ORDER OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT
LEGISLATOR, AMBASSADOR, PUBLIC SERVANT

AUGUST 18, 1924 - NOVEMBER 14, 1999

His family and friends ask that you join them in thanking the Almighty for the gift of his life, and in praying for his eternal repose.

"Sunshine Joe" will be especially remembered at masses for his intention in the following churches:

Church	Place	Time
Basilica of Our Lady of Charity (CRYPT)	*Agoo, La Union*	*4:00 p.m.*
Immaculate Concepcion	*Rosario, La Union*	*6:30 a.m.*
Our Lady of Lourdes	*Damortis, La Union*	*6:30 a.m.*
Holy Guardian Angel	*Sto. Tomas, La Union*	*6:30 a.m.*
St. Lucy	*Aringay, La Union*	*6:00 a.m.*
St. John the Baptist	*Caba, La Union*	*4:00 p.m.*
St. Peter Paul	*Bauang, La Union*	*6:00 a.m.*
St. Isidore	*Tubao, La Union*	*6:00 a.m.*
St. Agustine	*Naguilian, La Union*	*6:00 a.m.*
Holy Family	*Pugo, La Union*	*6:00 a.m.*
Our Lady of Fatima	*Burgos , La Union*	*6:00 a.m.*
Sta. Maria Della Strada	*La Vista, Q. C.*	*6:00 a.m.*
Sto. Domingo Church	*Quezon Blvd., Q. C.*	*12:15 p.m.*
Mary the Queen	*Greenhills, San Juan*	*7:00 a.m.*
Sanctuario de San Jose	*Greenhills, San Juan*	*7:15 a.m.*
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	*New Manila, Q. C.*	*6:00 p.m.*
Christ the King	*Green Meadows, Q. C.*	*6:00 p.m.*
Christ the King	*E. Rodriguez, Q. C.*	*6:30 a.m.*
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	*Project 6, Q. C.*	*6:00 p.m.*
Monasterio de Sta. Clara	*Quezon City*	*6:00 a.m.*
Mary Consolatrix of the Eucharist	*Naguilian, La Union*	*5:30 p.m.*
Parish of St. Joseph	*Bagulin, La Union*	*6:30 a.m.*

We
know
that
God
raised
the
Lord
Jesus
from
death.
He will
raise us
to life
with
Jesus.
He will
present
us,
along
with
you, to
God.

2 Cor. 4:14

Our Dearly Beloved

MANUEL "Maning" R. CANLAPAN SR.

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 11, 2001 at the age of 89.

His loving wife **MATILDE VALENZUELA**; children **MANUEL, JR., ARMANDO, LORETO, CARMELITA, EUGENIA & DANILO**; in-laws, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Capitol Memorial Chapels at Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

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SEVERO C. OEBANDA

La Castellana, Negros Occidental

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 11, 2001 at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife **Ninfa**; children **Mailan, Kitty, Beng, Jun**; grandchildren **Chabelli, Justin** and **Ravi**; friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at The National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Dao Street, Makati City (in front of YMCA, Makati).

Cremation will be held at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe on November 15, Thursday, 12 noon. In lieu of flowers, your prayers and donations are much appreciated.

Come to Me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

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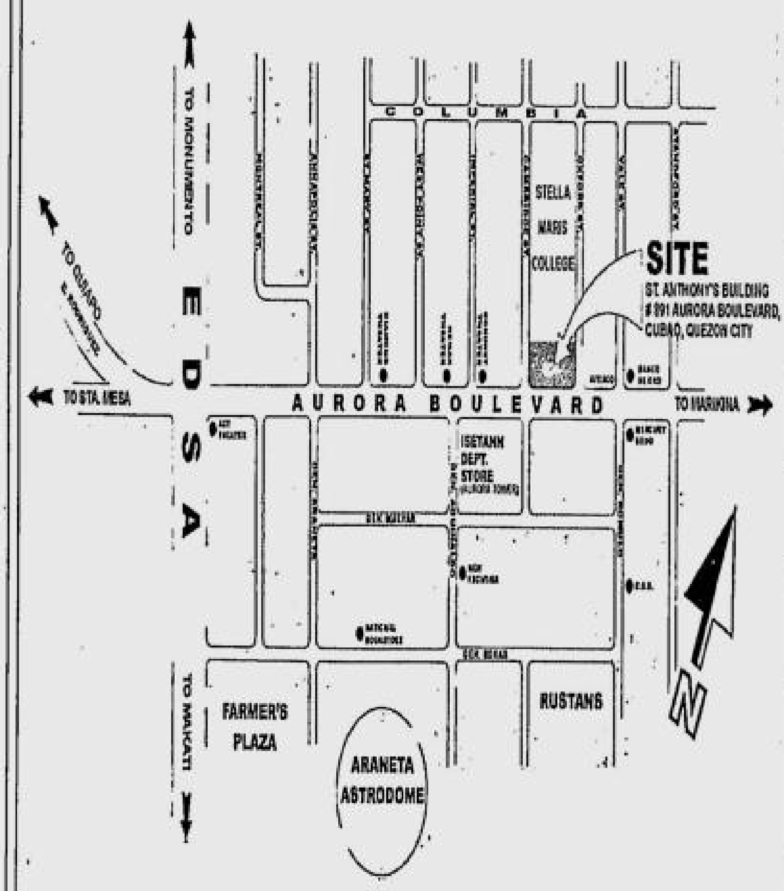


INQUIRER

TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Dead spot

Q. Why can't hair grow on a vaccination mark?

A. A vaccination mark is nothing more than a scar tissue. A vaccination causes an inflammation intense enough to destroy the hair follicles in its vicinity. Any deep injury to the skin will destroy hair follicles and cause hair loss, a condition known to dermatologists as 'scarring alopecia.' One can easily transplant hair onto a vaccination mark, if desired, but one can never bring a dead hair follicle back to life.

Which Is Which? Vaccination / Inoculation / Immunization. To be etymologically precise, one can be vaccinated only with cowpox vaccine (for *vaccine* comes from the Latin *vacca*, 'cow'). It was administered by *vaccination*, scratching the skin with a needle that had been dipped in virus-infected serum. Later, the term *vaccine* was applied to other serums, such as the Salk polio vaccine, which were not given via pricking the skin but by hypodermic needle. Hence, *vaccination* was replaced by *inoculation*, which described any method of preventative medicine involving a poke, scratch, or injection. Still, that didn't cover Sabin's oral polio vaccine or various suppositories, implants, and such. Thus, nowadays, the blanket term *immunization* is used, which pretty much says it all.

Past Forward. This day in 1875: Birth in San Jose, Bulacan, of Gregorio del Pilar, revolutionary general, nephew of Marcelo H. del Pilar, and the youngest general in Aguinaldo's army. He died, aged 23, at Tirad Pass (Ilocos Sur) in 1899.

WORD WATCH

General : from [illegible] whole race or kind'; thus the *general* of an army is so named because his command is of a very general nature: he takes in everybody.

PDI -- November 14, 2001

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ALBAY
MUNICIPALITY OF GUINOBATAN
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: November 14, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. 0139603MGR-A for the Construction of Muladbucad Grande Multi-Purpose Center with drying pavement, located at Brgy. Muladbucad Grande ARC, Guinobatan, Albay Province. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Guinobatan, Albay and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Description of the Project : Construction of Muladbucad Grande MPC with drying pavement.

Item	Scope of Work	Quantity	Unit
I	Excavation for structures	93.00	cu.m.
II	Backfilling and Fill Materials	70.00	cu.m.
III	Concrete Works	101.00	cu.m.
IV	Masonry Works	313.50	sq.m.
V	Steel Works	7,585.00	Kgs.
VI	Forms & Scaffolding	7,272.00	Bd.ft.
VII	Doors & Windows	22.54	sq.m.
VIII	Tileworks	8.91	sq.m.
IX	Painting Works	708.48	sq.m.
X	Plumbing Works	LS	Cu.m.
XI	Electrical	20.00	outlet

Bid Security : P20,000.00
Bid Closing Date : December 17, 2001, 10:00 a.m.
Project Duration : 150 calendar days

Minimum Equipment's Required

One (1) unit concrete bagger mixer, Three (3) units-concrete vibrator

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting November 15, 2001 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM upon payment of a non-refundable fee of three thousand pesos only (P3,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on December 12, 2001 at 2:00 P.M. at the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Guinobatan, Albay.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Guinobatan, Albay, on or before the bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

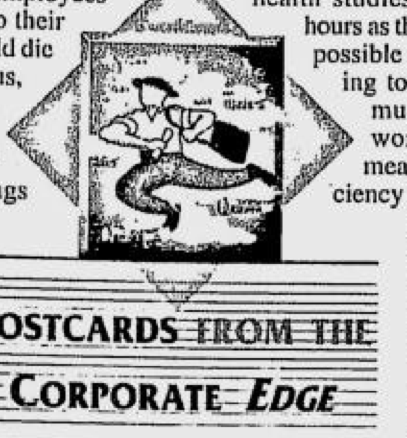
The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **HON. CHRISTOPHER FLORES**
Municipal Mayor/Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI - Nov. 14, 2001)

Is your job robbing you of your life?

By Ronald C.



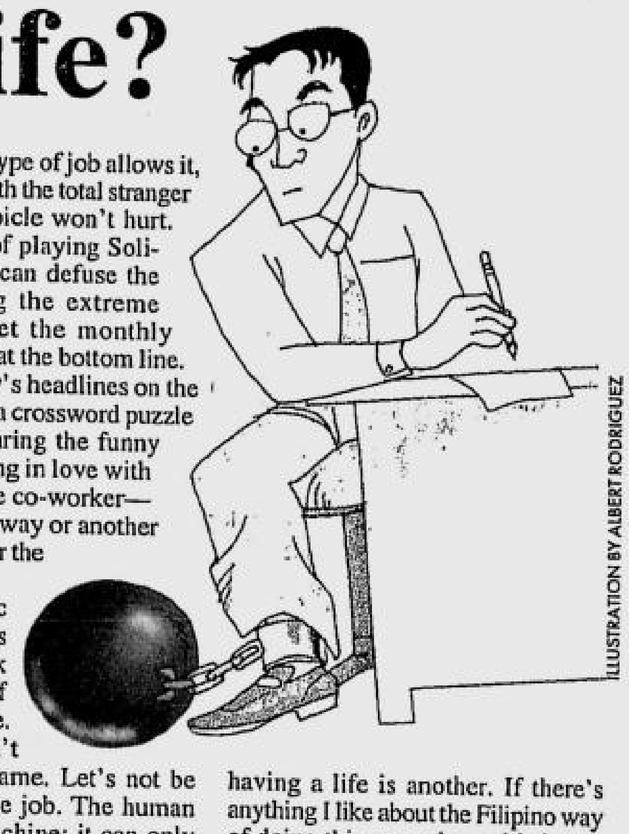


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WHAT'S the optimum number of hours that humans can render in a day to continuously provide efficient service and still get a life?

I have a friend who works as an air traffic controller for four hours daily; he is being paid the equivalent of a fulltime 8-hour job. Another friend works as a production worker for about 12 hours a day on certain weeks; he is being paid overtime rates for the time rendered in excess of eight hours.

The huge majority of us, of course, slave off for eight hours. Working beyond that, even if properly compensated, invites so much complaint. There are simply a lot of other things to do after office hours.

Thus, the answer to our question appears to be relative—depending on the person and the type of job.

Different strokes

Of course, if you ask President Gloria and other workaholics, they might say they wouldn't mind working on the computer or wading through paperwork for hours on end—gratis. To them, their work is simply their life. That's good for them, but what about for most of us, the less fortunate ones who must go to work because of the pay? (I hope my boss is not reading this.)

Death by overwork

Americans, we observe, are sticklers for keeping official hours. Perhaps paranoid about litigation, my former American bosses would shoo us employees away like flies if we stayed longer than a nanosecond. But they also frowned upon the few minutes of social contact by the water cooler outside of the 15-min breaks or the few seconds of stolen cigarette smoking time in the corridor. My former obsequious Filipino superior had a term for employees like that: *estafador*. It didn't matter whether you were catching forty winks or lingering on life's mysteries over a cup of Java coffee a tad too long. According to her, this was plain stealing.

The Japanese, no doubt, belong to the other end of the work ethic spectrum. Employees are so dedicated to their jobs that they would die for it literally. Thus, the Japanese invented the "kaizen-ized" system of doing things right the first time and the word *karoshi*, meaning death by overwork. The phenomenon of Japan Inc., it is thought, was made possible by the missionary zeal and devotion given by the Japanese to their work. In exchange for loyalty, Japan Inc. offered workers lifetime employment. Of course, we all know that the bubble soon burst but that's another story.

From a physiological perspective, I've heard about occupational health studies claiming eight hours as the maximum time possible for a human being to render the optimum efficiency at work. Beyond that means risking inefficiency due to tiredness and abbreviated attention span or, worst of all, *karoshi*.

Time thieves

I'm raising the issue because whenever I think about my former immediate superior calling us *estafadors* (she ended up a lawyer, by the way), I think she was being pharisaical. My other boss, ironically a male Chinoy, had more sense with his policy: "As long as you deliver, I wouldn't mind. The thing is, you are all old enough to know the limits." I think what he meant was that if your type of job allows it, a friendly chat with the total stranger next to your cubicle won't hurt. A few minutes of playing Solitaire on the PC can defuse the stress attending the extreme pressure to meet the monthly quota and arrive at the bottom line. Scanning the day's headlines on the Internet, solving a crossword puzzle with friends, sharing the funny pages, even falling in love with the boss or a cute co-worker—all enrich us one way or another even as we deliver the goods.

Hellish traffic and other detours in life after work already rob us of our quality of life. Our work doesn't have to do the same. Let's not be too uptight on the job. The human body is not a machine; it can only take so much. Besides, there's always tomorrow for us to catch up. Professionalism is one thing but having a life is another. If there's anything I like about the Filipino way of doing things, perhaps this is one of them.

(E-mail contributions to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

How to delegate the right way

RECIPES for LEARNING

By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

ONE of our readers laments that when he does the job, it gets done fast and well; but when he delegates, he sometimes has to redo the finished product. If this is a situation you find yourself in, this means that you are not delegating well or you are not delegating enough.

Doing tasks that could be more easily and effectively handled by others uses your time and energy needlessly. Not only does this create unnecessary stress for you but it also denies others the opportunities to offer their inputs, grow in their job responsibilities, accomplish better results and develop their capabilities.

In their book, "Manage Your Time, Manage Your Work, Manage Yourself," authors Merrill and Donna Douglas define delegation as "appointing someone else to act on your behalf." It means that you are asking a subordinate or a co-worker to do something that you normally do as part of your responsibility. A boss can delegate to a subordinate or a co-worker to another.

Focus on results

Delegation is different from merely assigning a job. Job assignment focuses on intended activities and secondarily on results. Delegation focuses on intended results. When you assign work, you simply instruct a subordinate or co-worker to complete a particular task in a specific manner. When you do this, do not expect the same results as when you delegate. Assigning jobs does not motivate or develop the skills of your subordinate or co-worker—and the assignment may not save you time.

In delegation, you should give the following to your "delegatee". If any of these three elements is missing, delegation will likely be ineffective. This could lead to frustration and disillusionment for both the "delegator" and the "delegatee."

1. Responsibility and accountability for completing the assignment
2. Authority to make necessary decisions and take appropriate action to complete the assignment
3. Freedom to complete the assignment properly

You may think that when you delegate, you gain time and relief from some responsibility. Not exactly true. You never delegate responsibility. What you delegate is the authority to act.

More responsibility

The process of delegation actually creates more total responsibility. You are still responsible to your own superiors for the ultimate results, including those you delegated. However, now your "delegatee" is also responsible to you for some portion of the original set of results. Total responsibility has increased.

The Douglases suggest six levels of delegated authority. They say that delegating authority to act is not simply a yes-or-no issue. Authority is normally delegated in varying degrees as follows:

Level 6: Take action—no further contact with me required.

Level 5: Take action—let me know wheat you did.

Level 4: Look into it—let me know what you intend to do; do it unless I say no (veto authority)

Level 3: Look into it—let me know what "you intend to do; don't take any action until I approve (direct authority).

Level 2: Look into it—let me know possible actions, include pros and cons of each, and recommend one for my approval

Level 1: Look into it—report all the facts to me; I'll decide what to do.

Degrees of authority

The degree of authority you grant to your "delegatee" will depend on many factors, including the complexity or importance of the project, your "delegatee's" expertise, time constraints and your confidence and trust in your "delegatee." Each level of authority has a purpose. The Douglases gave this example. If you are the "delegator," as you are training and developing subordinates or co-workers, you will move from lower levels to higher levels. You should not delegate the same level of authority to an untrained "delegatee" as you would a trained one.

Many bosses or co-workers delegate by "rote" and often grant inappropriate levels of authority to subordinates or co-workers. The Douglases add that different levels of authority require different time investment on your part. For instance, the interaction required between you and your "delegatee" at Level 1 would be considerably greater than the interaction required of level 6. Many "delegators" are surprised to find that increased delegation leaves them with less available time instead of more. In general, the time investment will be less as the level of authority increases. Then as you become good at delegating, you will earn your just reward for delegating—extra time.

If you have not delegated duties in the past, you will probably experience greater anxiety as you begin to delegate more. You tend to worry more and overcontrol your "delegatee". You spend more time checking up on what's happening. This is not time saving. The solution is not to do the tasks yourself but to learn how to cope with increased anxiety. Improve your delegation habits; the more you delegate the better you become good at delegation.

In next week's column, you will learn in our Workshop on Invest Your Time in Others To Gain More Time for your Life Plans about what to delegate, selecting the proper people to whom to delegate and how to delegate.

Thanks

I shall be eternally thankful to my ophthalmologists Drs. Harvey Uy and Bobby Ang of the Asean Eye Institute. For 40 years now, I have been wearing eyeglasses or contact lenses. My eyesight has continued to deteriorate for several reasons including heredity. Our family members have varied eye defects from generation to generation. I am extremely pleased with the fast, painless, bloodless laser PRK procedure done to my eyes by my expert doctors who honed their expertise at the Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts. And the state-of-the-art equipment and machines plus the super duper patient care that the staff of AEI from the Managing Director Galo Garde to their many doctors, nurses, front desk staff, janitors and all. *Wala akong masabi*—world class *talaga*! Now I can see clearly minus eyeglasses and you may now see my beautiful eyes exposed. They say I look younger and prettier by 10 minutes, oooops 10 years.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*

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Power...

(From page B16)

to be a worldwide bestseller and is translated into many languages.

But what we didn't have with Seven Habits was the application in the business world—the connection between you and other people. So if you're working on yourself, that's important and that's always the starting point. But how do I connect now with other people? So this was the bridge that I brought.

I have a little diagram, I call it the process of power, and it talks about four different paths to power. Stephen's book makes the assumption that you can be proactive, you're not a victim, you're a volunteer. And you can control people by being cruel or eliciting fear in them or you can influence people by making deals with them or by who you are.

What I did was I took that and expanded it, and also added this column that we call being powerless. So now, in addition to dependence, independence and interdependence, which is the foundation for Stephen's work, we have codependence, which is what happens when you have someone who has built his life around the weaknesses of another person.

In the newspaper this morning, there was a wonderful article about a woman who had an abusive husband and two children. Her husband abandoned her. She's feeling powerless, she's feeling like a victim. Some terrible things have happened. But she went on to do some marvelous things. Today, she's the director of communications for Symex—the third largest company in the world—and she's influential, she's accumulated assets, and her children are now in their 20s. She's a grandmother and a very influential woman here in the Philippines because she overcame powerlessness and moved into this other column (principle-based power).

Everyone feels powerless in the face of some things. Maybe in the face of government, graft and corruption. Maybe in the face of someone else who's in the position that you don't have. Maybe it's in the face of something you have not been able to accomplish that you wanted to. Maybe it's in the face of an abusive situation in your own family. Maybe it's your clan or you feel that someone else has the power and you don't. Everyone in some settings feels impotent or powerless or helpless or hopeless. My book talks about how you move from that into the world of power. I believe everyone can make a difference. Maybe we can't change the whole world but you can change someone's whole world.

So I really dedicated my life, professionally, to try and share those concepts. And we probably have quarter of a million copies of this book now in people's hands. And it continues to be powerful concepts and I think that's why they brought me here, to share these things.

Those are the distinctions between Stephen's work and mine. There's a parallel with maturity continuum. There's also an extension and application in the world of business and community living.

(Dr. Lee is represented here in the Philippines by the Center for Leadership and Change, the official distributor of Franklin Covey products and services. They may be contacted 4F Ateneo Professional Schools Bldg., 130 de la Costa St. Salcedo Village with tel. no. 817-2726 and e-mail clci@skyinet.net)

Accountants ask, 'how fair are forced retirements?'

BY TITA DATU PUANGCO

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

WE are accountants from one of the leading auditing companies in the country. Recently, we heard that a number of our senior executives have been forced to retire. Many are in their early 50s, have given their best years to the company, and have served as role models for us. Yet, there are no satisfactory explanations given. All we know as accountants is that their retirement serves to improve the company's bottom line. What do you think? Are forced retirements fair? This top management move has shaken our faith in the fairness of the company's human resources philosophy and policy. We no longer think it is a company where we should invest our talent and time. Please advise us.

Anonymous Accountants

The situation you cited is unfortunate. If the executives forced to retire are role models, then you are right, your company has to rethink how it regards its human assets. In this era where intellectual capital is cited as a key source of strategic advantage, cutting off senior executives only on the basis of bottom line considerations may be a mistake.

Loss of corporate memory

In the book, "Intellectual Capital," author Annie Brooking cites, "Every time we lose an employee we lose a chunk of corporate memory. Despite the fact that the organization pays for people, their assets, by way of training, fast track plans and so on, the asset is not owned by the corporation..." If corporate memory loss happens with losing employees, what more with retiring senior executives who can continue to contribute value added service to the company."

You ask, are forced retirements fair? One can view the question from two perspectives, from the view of morality and the other, justice. We all know that many companies resort to rightsizing because of their precarious economic situations. Often, the argument forwarded is that the organization is likened to a sick person, where it is better to amputate a leg rather than lose the whole person. Is this the case with your company? We also know that some companies ride the bandwagon of the economic slowdown to justify downsizing.

Viewpoints

From a moral viewpoint, this may be a situation difficult to judge. This means finding out whether your leaders seriously sought what is right and good and with proper discernment, according to their consciences. From the point of view of justice, justice means that persons are given what are due them. The universal catechism defines this as "the moral virtue that disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regards to persons and the human good." We cannot set ourselves as judges in this particular case as we have no full knowledge of the decision process of your leaders.

What is important is that the process undertaken in informing and retiring the executives, or any human being for that matter, respects their dignity as children of God. It has to be done with utmost care and sensitivity that leaves the person with hope for the future.

Survivor guilt

What you are feeling right now may be the "survivor guilt syndrome." This is what people who remain after a major rightsizing feel. What should you do? We suggest you review once again your personal vision, mission and values and examine if they are still aligned with that of your corporation. If alignment is possible, then be at peace. If not, then you may be better off moving on to another company where there is closer fit to what you desire and believe in.

Typical of downsizing situations is a temporary loss of productivity and demotivation on the part of those who remain. Your company may want to undertake a communications program to clarify management's intentions and actions. It can also provide valuable counseling services for those who find it difficult to make the transitions needed. The job environment becomes more stressful as jobs are often enriched and expanded among people who remain. You may also choose to clarify with your superiors the tasks ahead of you.

Don't be carried away by the emotions involved in the situation. Allow some time to pass before making decisions on your careers. Think over carefully what you are trading off in case you decide to leave the company. Explore your options. Since you mentioned you are a group, you may be in a position to dialogue with your superiors so that you could get more information that could help you make sound decisions.

May God give you the gift of discernment so that you can serve Him better, whether in your existing company or in another.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice for problems at work through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

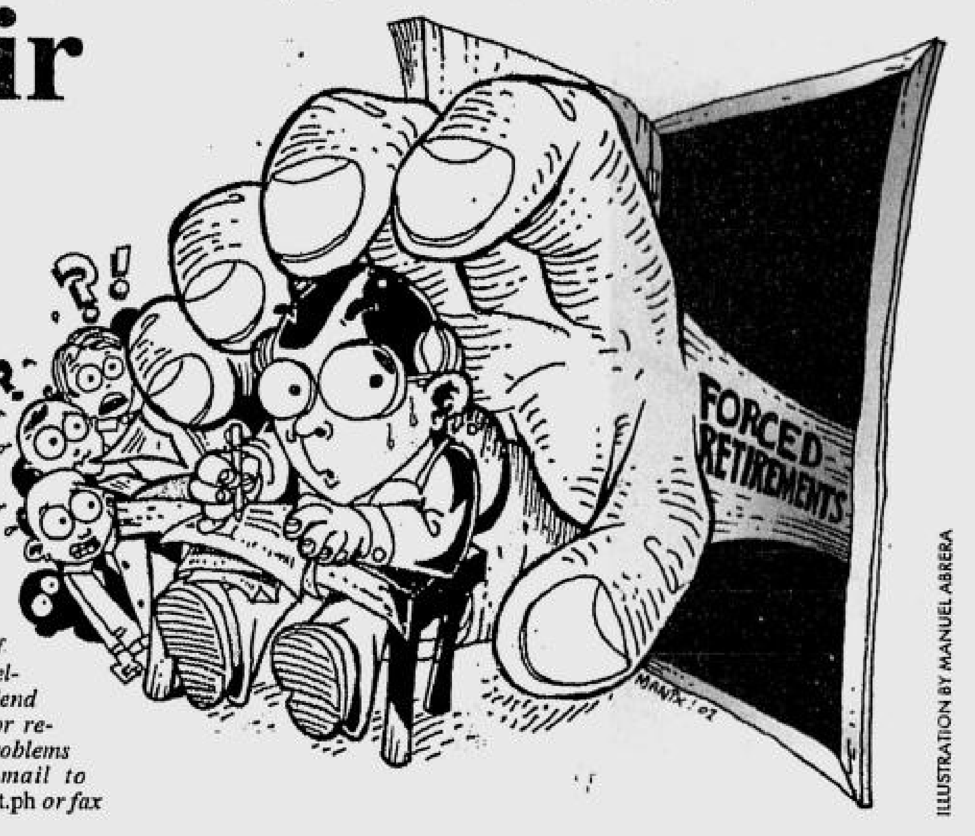

ILLUSTRATION BY MANUEL ABRERA

Reflections for the working soul

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- From the book "The Power Principle: Influence with Honor" by Blaine Lee

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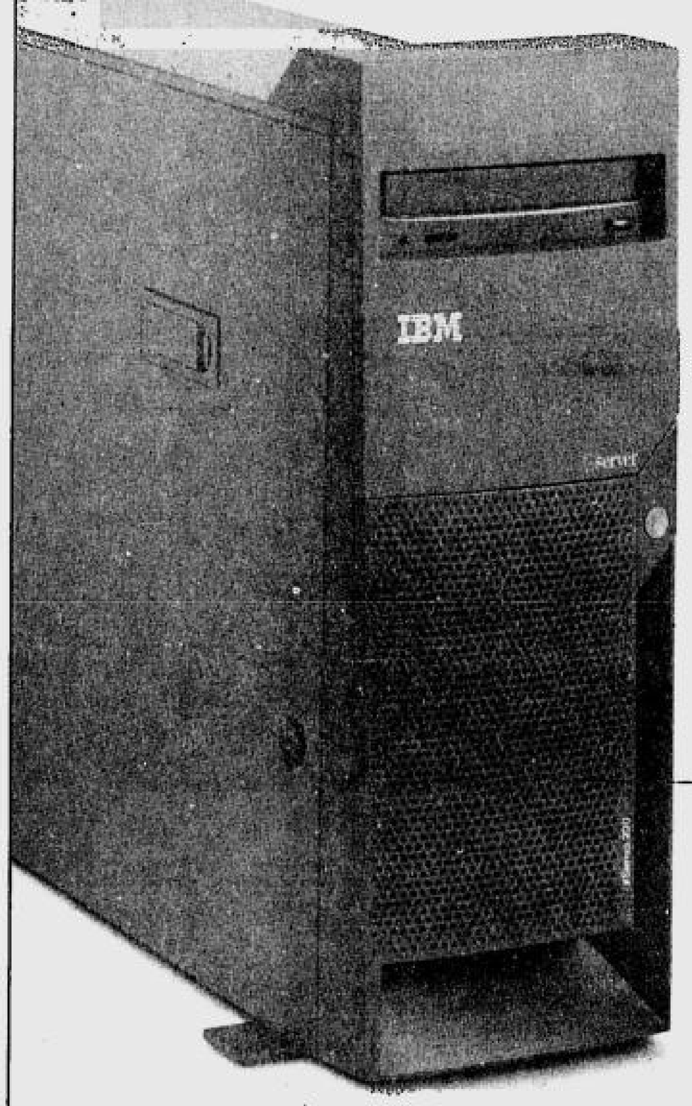

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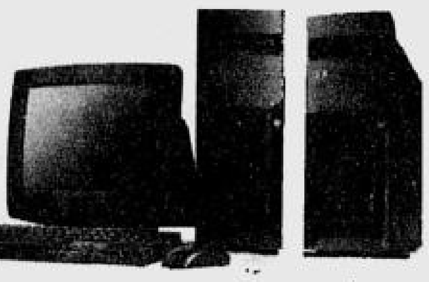

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PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **REGINA GALANG REYES**, Subsection Editor

Power should be wielded with honor

BY REGINA GALANG REYES

POWER can be found in the most ordinary places and wielded by the most ordinary people. What is done with this power, whether this is translated into a force for positive change or on the other extreme, a tool for personal aggrandizement, depends on the motivations of the people who wield it.

This second part of the interview with Dr. Blaine Lee, author of "The Power Principle: Influence with Honor" delves deeper into the different facets of power.

PaW: In the workplace, there may be situations when people in certain positions—not powerful positions, per se—use the little power they have for their own self-interest. How can a leader in a company prevent or correct this?

Lee: So they have little positions but they are in a position of power because they control something. They're gatekeepers and so they can get a little something on the side.

Let me tell you what a philosopher said. He said, "When the morals of the society are sufficient, the law is unnecessary. When the morals are insufficient, the laws are unenforceable."

If I want to change something but the overall society says that's totally unacceptable, what's going to prevail? Edwards Demings, the father of quality, says that if you put good people in a bad system, you get bad results, invariably. If you have an assembly line or a work process and you have a good, resourceful person, but they're not reinforced for that and everyone else punishes them for any behavior deviating from the norm, (then you get bad results). That's what we're talking about the norm.

LEE

PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

You got to do two things. Number one, this is a long process. This is not going to change in an instant. So you got to have this perspective. Number two, I've got to have my eyes open. I'm going to tie up the camel. I'm going to work in the streets while I'm working for a change for something better.

My belief is you don't have to tear down someone's home. You show them a better house in which to live and they'll move in there. You come in and start to threaten a man's house, you are going to get a fight. Maybe he'll try to kill you. So you come in and you say, "You can't do that anymore." They say, "Wait a minute. I'm getting money from this. It works. It gives a sense of power. You're going to take that away from me? What do you offer in exchange of that?" Until the norm of the society starts to change, this is going to keep happening. So I say, "I recognize that it's going to keep happening but at the same time we start to say, what if we're different?"

So as a manager, I'm going to work with things the way they are. But as a leader, I'm going to say 'what if?' I can imagine the possibility that doesn't exist. And I'm going to work and give myself and my life to that.

When your president (of the Philippines) took over and she writes this moral compass—I have integrity in everything that I do. I'm going to let you know where my money is coming from—what is she saying? She's saying, "I'm not going to have 3,000 pairs of shoes." Does she live up to it? Does she have critics? Yes, she has critics. People are doing this; people are saying that. But still she's saying this is what we're striving for. Maybe she'll fall short. I think every leader will but that's what the leader does. He doesn't just accept that's the way it is, we going to work with it or take advantage of it. He will say, "I know this is the world in which I work. But I'm going to hold out for something that's better." When a ship captain says he is going to turn the ship, he makes the decision and five miles later, the ship starts to turn. That's the process we're involved in.

PaW: Why would somebody using a coercive power type of leadership and making hay in the process move towards principle-based power?

Lee: Usually, I ask, "How does it feel being you? How do you like what you're doing?" They say, "Well, it's great." I ask, "How do you sleep at night?" They answer, "Well, I have to have a private guard." "Why?" "To protect myself." I ask, "Would you like it to be different? Do you have anything to offer anybody?" They say, "Oh, yes, I have a lot of things." Great, you can move over here, one little step.

In the long haul, these what I want to ask them, "How do you want to treat your children? How do you want to treat the people who work with you everyday? How do you want to treat your own employees, your business partners? You want to win when they fail? Is that good business? Yes, you can do that. You can take advantage of them. But is that really want you want long-term?" Sometimes they say, "Come back next year and I'll talk to you again."

When we're talking about the evolution of the culture, the economy and the entire country, we think over the long haul.

PaW: Who among the world leaders do you think embody the principles you espouse in your book?

Lee: I think there are a number who try. There's always the danger in saying, "Look at this one person. They never make any mistakes. They do everything right." Nobody does. And I certainly don't. But I try to. My life certainly goes better when I do.

I have been fascinated in our own country with our new president. A lot of people say he wasn't very articulate and so on, but in the face of this crisis, I think he's demonstrated dramatic, strong, principled leadership. Right now, he's very popular—more than any president's ever been. I don't know if that will change over time.

It's easy to pick someone like Gandhi or Mother Teresa who lived exceptional lives. But I don't know. I think there are many people who are trying to do that. And when that happens, it blesses the lives of many people. I think many people are trying to do that in their own homes. I could give you a long list of such kind of people who are corporate leaders. Many of them are clients of mine. They are not in the newspaper. They just very quietly build values in their companies. Their stock prices are going up. They are blessing the lives of their employees. They don't want to draw attention to themselves. They have a different purpose.

PaW: Many people think that Asian countries need Asian leaders who are autocratic like Mahathir because Malaysia has been quite successful in the way it has developed. What do you think?

Lee: I think that when there is a crisis, I want an autocratic leader. If this building is on fire, I don't want someone to say, "Let's have a committee who asks, 'What do you think? Who wants to leave? Who wants to stay here?'" But the problem is, people say, "It worked in a crisis, let's do it all the time."

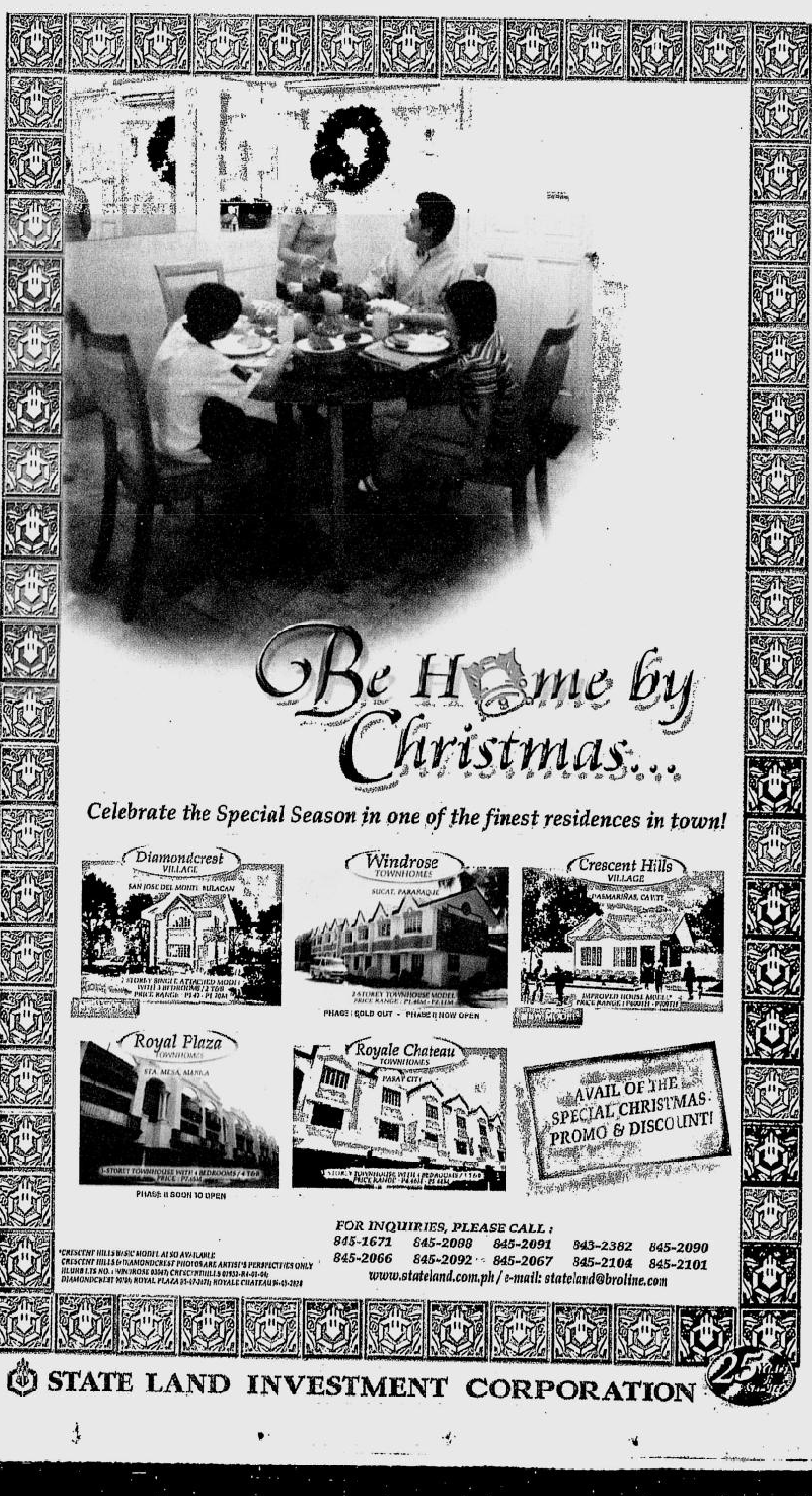
There are certainly times when someone must make a decision. I had one boss who said, "Blaine, if there are two people riding on horse, someone must ride in the front." Where does that leave the other person? In the back. That's great but all of life is not like riding a horse. Sometimes it's in a bus, in a bicycle. It's the wise leader who can do what's necessary under times of crisis but when the crisis passes, steps back and says, "Now, where do we want to go?"

PaW: How is Stephen Covey's book, "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," different or similar to your book?

Lee: Stephen's focus really was the personal focus. His concern was the Seven Habits and I think the key to its universal appeal is that it's so applicable to individuals, whoever they are. And the power of the Seven Habits has to do with taking power in our own lives. I have taught Seven Habits with Stephen for 15 years. It is wonderful material and it continues

POWER/B14

FROM left are Lirio Mapa, Blaine Lee, Carmen Alcuaz Reyes and Tony Albert.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LIFESTYLE

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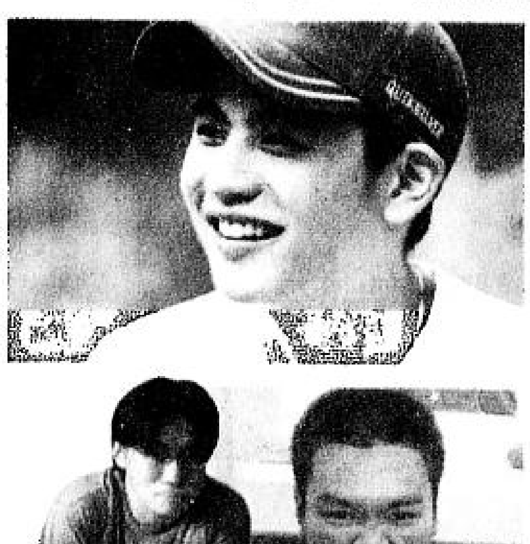
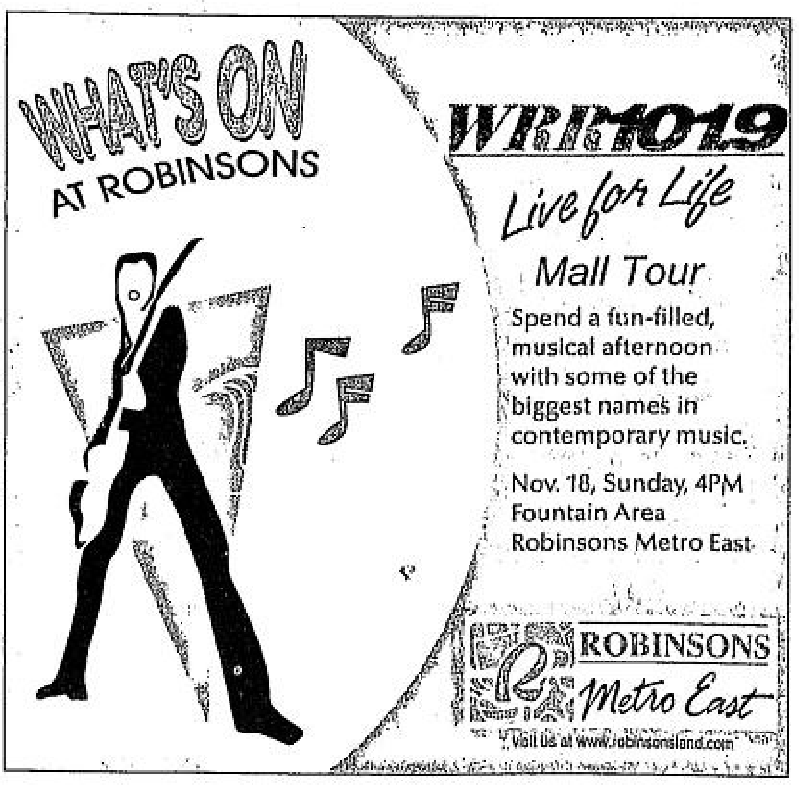
2bU!

How's your GQ (Guy Quotient)?

Oh, the men in our lives! They go crazy over basketball, yell like hyenas when watching boxing, drool over the latest car model, howl like apes over the latest sex bombshell, and get soused up and rowdy like elephants. But they're also thoughtful, humorous, and beneath the hard exterior, mushy and melodramatic. Confused? In this issue, 2bU! tries to sort out men and make them a little less confusing

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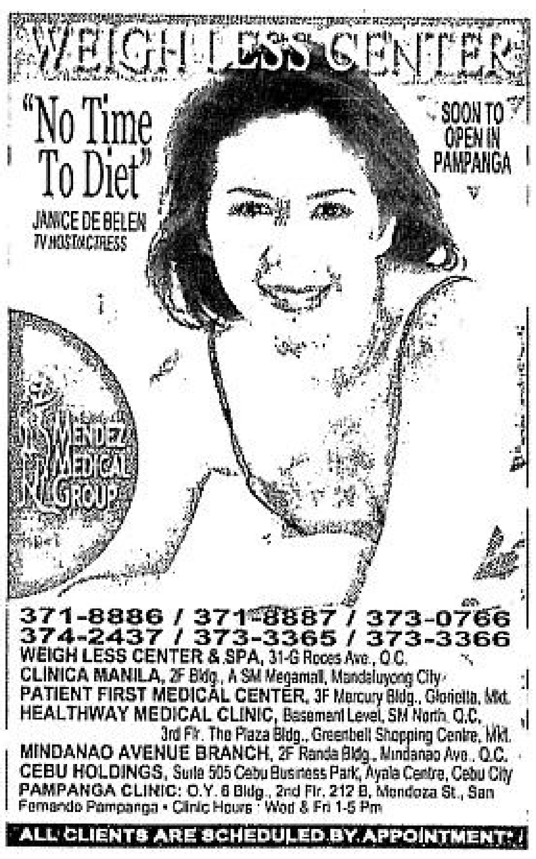
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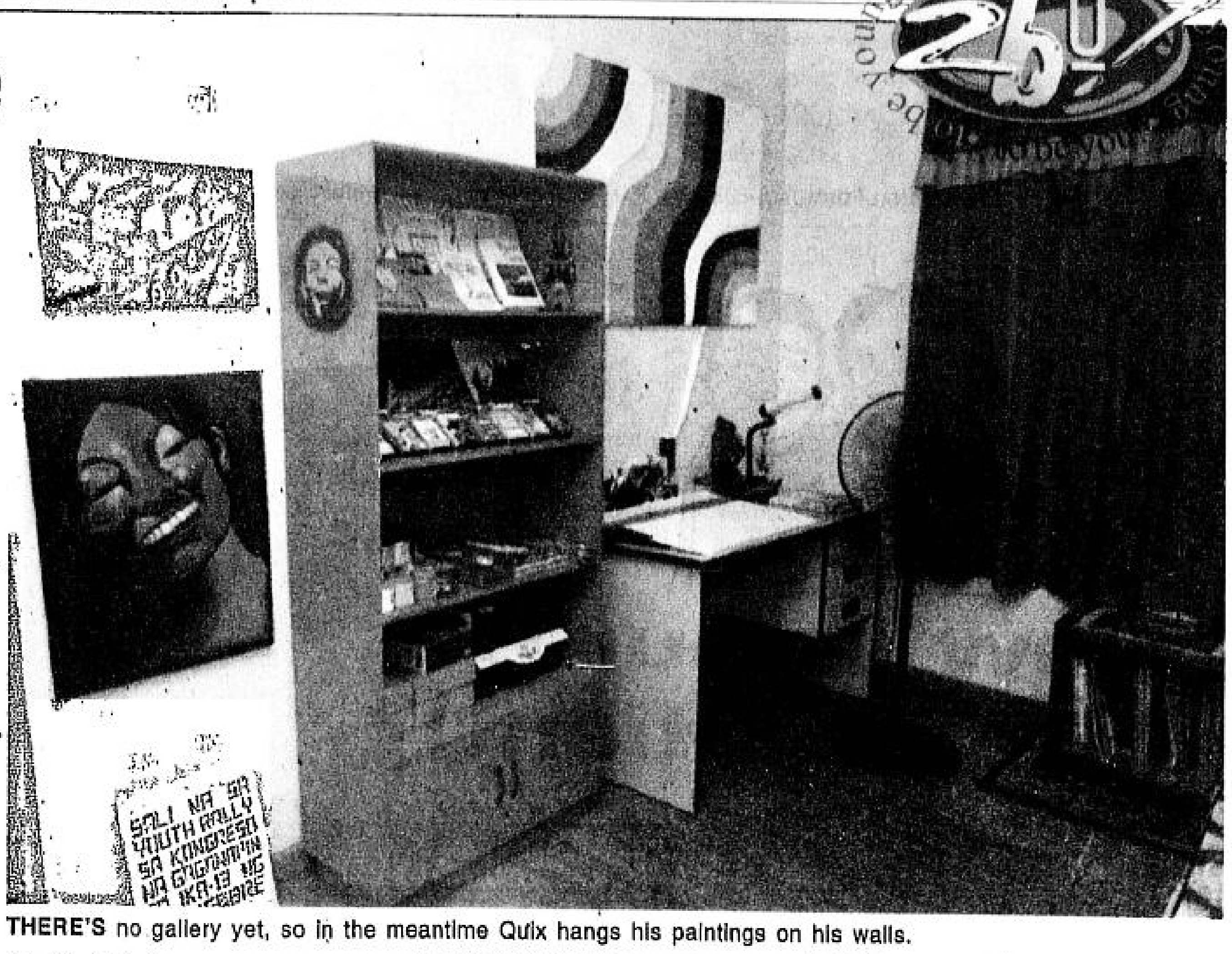
Navigating the maze that is a guy's room

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Roger Carpio

THINK of the bedroom as another (perhaps bigger) window into the male psyche. I think it was Darwin who said the best way to know or understand the behavior of a species is to look at its habitat. It is the same for men. The clutter on the floor, what's plastered on his walls, the gadgets he has installed—these are telltale signs of his personality. And it is only natural that the place he returns to at the end of the day, where he can virtually do whatever he pleases without being disturbed (except by his mom demanding that he clean up his room), where he can truly be himself, should reflect his personality.

Join 2bU in exploring men's bedrooms.


SALI NA SA YOUTH RALLY SA KONGRESO NA GAGANAPIN SA IKA-13 NG NOBYEMBRE

THERE'S no gallery yet, so in the meantime Quix hangs his paintings on his walls.

Quix Maiquez

19, Ateneo, BS Comm Tech

What was the first thing in your mind when you decorated your room?

Room for all my paintings. I started painting when I was 12 so I have more each year.

Do you have a "theme" for your room?

Not really. Although I have a painting of the sun and stars near my bed, and I thought that a bed sheet with sun and stars would look good so *'yun ang pinabili ko sa* Mom *ko.* Aside from that, I just got the others because I liked them, no theme in mind.

What is the main difference between a guy's room and a girl's room?

My room can pass for a girl's room. (Laughs) I don't know. The smell? I think girl's rooms are more organized and detailed. Guy's rooms tend to be dirty and messy.

A FEW of his favorite things, in this case, a self-portrait and a toy he's had since he was 5 years old.

QUIX'S ROOM. The center of his universe

Three things in your room that you can't live without?

My paintings, my PC, my tools. All my future plans are in my PC, like my artwork and a web page.

Be honest. How often do you clean your room?

I clean when my Mom tells me to, but the maids also clean it when I'm not around. I don't really mind them cleaning—they know where I like to put things so it's no problem. But I do dusting and sweeping myself.

Are you the type who'd spend money on your room?

I'd spend for my room.

Complete the sentence: "My room is..."?

My room is cool. It's neat. I'm the type of guy who, when I'm out on gimmicks, think about going back to my room. I don't like staying out long. In fact, I could stay in my room for weeks. Everything I need is here.

Interesting knickknacks in Maiquez's room:

- Oil stained paintbrushes—Very neatly tied up and put on display on a fire-engine red cabinet. This artist knows how to keep his tools tidy and display them creatively.
- Cassette tapes of '60s, '70s and '80s music—Interesting relics from his Mom's past. He doesn't listen to them but keeps them because he likes their cover designs.
- Political banner—Leaning against the wall, it reads: "*Sali na sa* youth rally *sa kongreso na gaganapin sa ika-13 ng Nobyembre.*" Maiquez found it in their *tambayan* in school a year ago and brought it home.

JP YAN

20 years old, 4th year, Ateneo, BS Bio

What was the first thing you had in mind when you decorated your room?

Since my room is small, the first thing I kept in mind was cramming all my hobbies in it—my fishing rod, the gaming stuff, the reading stuff, figurine and the aquarium.

Is neatness a major concern?

The chaos in the room is a reflection of my chaotic personality. (Laughs) Well, *ito 'yung gusto ko e, ganito e.*

How often do you clean your room?

I know it is time for me to clean my room when there's no more room for me to stuff things under my bed. If I'm not able to stuff things inside, then that means I have to start cleaning.

Do you make a big deal of your room or is it just a place for sleeping?

Yeah, it's something very utilitarian. I don't find the need to buy something for my room. I like to put stuff in my room, but it's just a room, it's not as if I worship it.

"**I AM** king and my room is my domain."

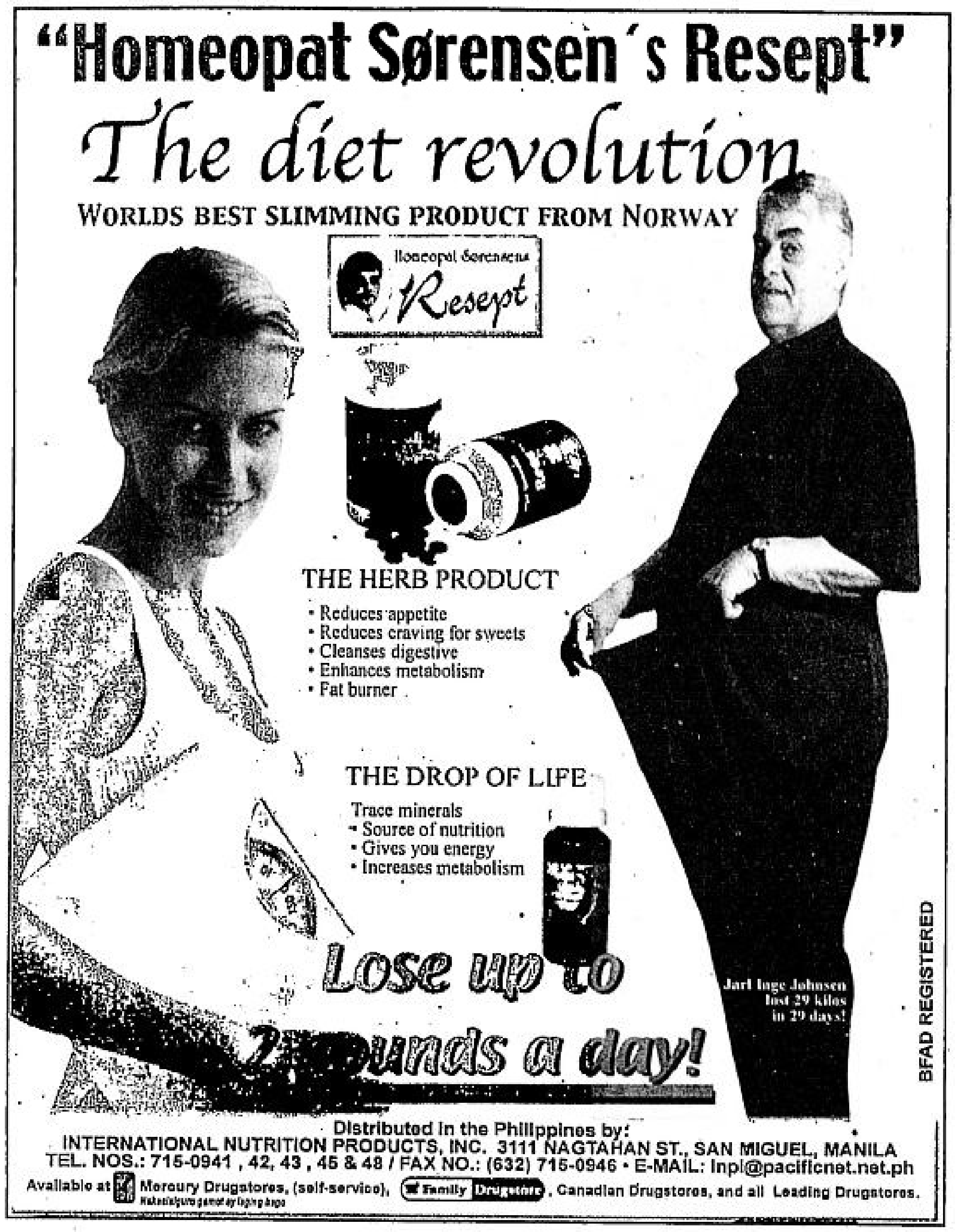
What's on your walls?

Animé posters of shows I like, a "Jurassic Park poster"—I'm not a fan of the movie but I'm fascinated by dinosaurs—and posters of Romanian gymnasts in 1992-1996. I think they're pretty and I like to try gymnastics myself. Also on the wall is a printout of the lyrics of a song from Final Fantasy and an excerpt from a Dragonlance book.

Three things in your room that you can't live without?

Aquarium full of *Dascyllus reticulaus*, the figurine-modeling desk and the bookshelf. I love fish. I can't live in a room without fish. I also can't live

NAVIGATING/p.C3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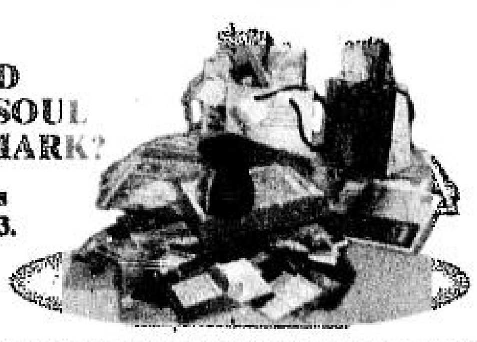

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Navigating the maze that is a guy's room

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JP loves animé, books, the PlayStation, his aquarium, molding warcraft figurines, etc.

(From page C2)

without my figurine-modeling desk. Most kids use a desk to study. I use my desk to work on these guys (warcraft figurines). So I end up studying in front of the computer or on the floor. Bookshelf—I'm a very avid reader and I need a place for my books.

What do you keep on the ledge?

Plants; it's another hobby. I take care of them on my own. But unlike other people, I don't grow plants for their flowers. I like them they way they are. I have seedlings of trees. I'm going to plant them in my own home latter when I marry my girlfriend. I also like growing these weed-looking things (not *that* kind of weed…) because they look cute. I also grow viney stuff and water plants.

GENE KELLY
DONALD O'CONNOR
DEBBIE REYNOLDS

"**I LIKE** keeping my room neat. I can't do things properly if it's messy."

Miguel Sevilla

16, La Salle Greenhills

What was the first thing you had in mind when you decorated your room?

I wanted it to have a movie house feel. It's something I love. I want films all over my room.

Are you still going for that look?

Well, I want to but I lack space.

Do you believe that your room really reflects your personality?

Yeah, I think my room reflects my personality. You spend most of your time in the room so you lend some of your personality to it.

Did you have a free hand in designing your room?

When we moved here, there was an interior designer who designed the room and chose the furniture. To tell you the truth, I don't like my bed. It takes up so much space. It's too bulky for the size of my room. But after a while, I guess it grows on you.

What is the main difference between a guy's room and a girl's room?

(Laughs) You'd see a lot of beauty products in a girl's room. Although I can't generalize, guys' rooms tend to have more personality. But, of course, that is not true for all.

Three things in your room that you can't live without?

My collection of books, films and video equipment. I have books by Hemingway, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, JD Salinger and a copy of the Communist Manifesto. I like films from the silent era (Chaplin, Murnau), the "Godfather Trilogy," "Psycho," "Vertigo," "Ran," "Seven Samurai" and others from Japan and India.

Do you make a big deal of your room or is it just a place for sleeping?

It's important to me. Coming from school, I just think about home and about relaxing in my room. When I arrive home, I'd go up to my room and just lie on my bed and stretch.

Any room rules?

I don't have any. I think a room shouldn't have any rules.

If a Martian saw your room, what would he say?

"What's that smell?"

E-mail the author at anario@hotmail.com

POSTERS of Miguel's favorite films adorn the walls.

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Boyfriends 101

Is your guy the working type, the jock type, or the family type?

BY CHRISTINE MAY D. ICAMINA

STEREOTYPING is like the odor of *ginisa* clinging to your clothes after having spent only a few seconds in the kitchen before lunchtime—it is helplessly unavoidable. Even in love, which is supposed to be blind, typecasting is rife, like an endless row of different brands of instant noodles with practically the same taste in a supermarket.

But when searching for that elusive bargain of a boyfriend, does the packaging foreshadow what you are in for?

BF brand A: The working guy

Young working guys are, more often than not, seen holding an electronic organizer, a computer mouse, or a crisp paycheck—and not the hand of his girlfriend. Notorious for being too serious at such a young age, having a working boyfriend is a big no-no for girlfriends who want to be spoiled with attention.

Working guys are seen to prefer investing on financially rewarding ventures rather than investing time on having wholesome fun with girlfriends, talking on the phone just to say good night and whispering sweet nothings.

Taste-tested: Although Red's only 21, he's been fending for himself for over two years so obviously that makes him a very independent person. And that's good because he has no choice but to be responsible. He knows how to take care of others because he knows how to take care of himself. He doesn't exclude me from his work, he asks for my opinion and stuff like that so we get to spend a lot of time together. He really finds time to see me. People think that a working guy is very busy and more often than not serious. But the thing with Red is, he has all the more reason to make the most out of his free time because that's when he can really relax, loosen up and feel free. That's why when he's with me he can be *makulit* and playful, and that makes him such a great guy.—**Carla Paredes, 20, AdMU**

BF brand B: The family man

For the family man, family comes first and he makes it clear—almost too clear—to his girlfriend. One should not be surprised if he postpones a movie date at the last minute at a single text message from his kid sister to pick her up from school.

The girl must not underestimate the need to make a magnificent first impression on the guy's family. Or else, she risks raising familial eyebrows. His eyebrows may twitch a little as well.

Taste-tested: Paul falls under the category of the family man. He's caring and at the same time, just like my dad, he gets mad when I sleep too late. He always watches what I eat. He's conservative about what I wear and he always gets into my parents' good side when it comes to asking permission to go out with friends. Though he's the baby of the family, he's very mature in making decisions. At first, before I met his parents, I was intimidated because they probably have high expectations for their son, but fortunately, and they were both very nice and accommodating. And his mom was especially sweet and *maasikaso*.—**Niña Martinez, 20, DLSU**

BF brand C: The clown

Clowns are happy-go-lucky individuals. To have a clown for a boyfriend is seriously difficult (pun intended). If a girl wants a steady, serious relationship, one with a clown most probably will be an unpleasant roller-coaster ride. Instead of using his lips for smooching his girlfriend, he will attempt silly Jim Carey wannabe impersonations or saying those silly but funny jokes.

Fights would most likely be about his taking things too lightly, even the relationship itself. Picture this: the girlfriend is up in arms in exasperation while the clown-boyfriend sports a lopsided grin with a couldn't-care-less chuckle to boot.

Taste-tested: Marvs is very *makulit* and *kengkoy*. When I met him, I never thought that you could ever have a serious moment with him. That's why he had a difficult time courting me. *Pinahirapan ko talaga siya kasi hindi nga ako* sure *kung seseryosohin niya ako*. But eventually, *nag*-succeed *siya. Sinagot ko siya*. And now, *parang mas* into the relationship *pa nga siya kaysa sa akin*, ha-ha. Super *malambing siya* and he really takes care of me.—**Jen, 18, UP**

BF brand D: The jock

Legions of cheering girls. Soccer practice in the morning and afternoon. Too tired to call you up. And did we say legions of cheering girls? These are what an athlete's girlfriend has to deal with.

Having a jock for a boyfriend is not ideal for the jealous type of girl because of the fans (not of the sport, mind you) that constantly hound this type of guy, who is a campus figure. Otherwise, his struggles on court or on the field may just extend to the relationship.

Taste-tested: I had a crush on Carlo even before I actually met him. And then I saw him [back home] in Bacolod where the Uni-Games were held. He was a soccer player *pala*. He kinda looked like the "bad boy" type *pero* he's really a good guy, plus he's really nice. He's not an empty-headed jock. He's very *malambing* and loyal, proving that he's not a player in the field with women. Sometimes he's tired because of his games and practices, but he makes up for lost time together by spoiling me.—**Yvanna Maalat, 18, AdMU**

BF brand E: The fratman

To have a fratman boyfriend would mean sharing his love with his other girlfriend—his fraternity. A fratman's girlfriend must get used to her man spending time with "the boys." During "rumble" season, she must not be another source of (what would then be) a figurative, and not a literal, headache. The fratman-boyfriend possesses a tough exterior (judging from that *maangas* walk and look) that definitely does not complement a sweet guy image.

One may expect a fratman boyfriend to be a possible knight in shining armor, but not necessarily a Romeo who would hold his girlfriend's hand tenderly in public with his often-clenched fist.

Taste-tested: Sometimes I get jealous because of the time he spends with the *brods*, especially since we're from different schools. But through time, I got used to it and in a way am now thankful that at least he doesn't spend that amount of time with other girls, he-he. By talking with him about his frat, I now know that his frat wasn't conceived just for rumbles and things like that. They are backed by ideals for humanitarian service. Of course, just like any un-sissy guy, once provoked, things could get physical. They're guys *eh*. I also like his being a *maangas* guy because I like the feeling of being protected. And he's very sweet. He'd always hold my hand or hug me in public. Also, even if he's around his *brods*, he'd still tell me, sometimes even scream, that he loves me over the phone for all of them to hear.—**Chims, 20, AdMU**

BF brand F: The musician

For musicians, music is a passion. Most probably, way before a spirited musician has even met his girlfriend-to-be, music has already been established as his first love. Never make a musician-boyfriend choose between music and you. When it comes to jamming sessions and gigs, these are non-negotiables to him. Asking a musician boyfriend to give up a jamming session or a gig for a date is a sin. It would be like asking him to throw away his guitar, which he is highly unlikely to do.

Taste-tested: Dave makes time for me despite his busy sked—jammings, gigs and school. But what makes him the bestest boyfriend *na* musician is that he shares his music with me. He never makes me feel left out during gigs. He also encourages me to listen to music in general, not just his genre. He makes me part of his passion for music. I don't regard [music] as a threat or competition for time and attention because I understand how important music is to him.—**Twyla, 19, UP**

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

BF brand G: The typical guy

Ironically, simply being a guy doesn't escape stereotyping. If sugar and spice and all things nice describe girls, then watching and playing sports, video games, having a carefree attitude, time with the boys, ogling at girls—these make up the "typical" guy.

Picture this: You often see your guy friends that belong to the "typical" category. Admit it, you find it difficult imagining them in a mature, serious, loving relationship. The most you can visualize is him dragging his girl along to do "typical guy activities" with him (if not, leaving the poor girl home waiting for him as he spends the day with "the boys"). Definitely not boyfriend material.

Taste-tested: Pope is a typical guy. He likes sports, PlayStation and drinking with buddies on Saturday nights. He's not really a nerd, but he doesn't really slack. He gets by. He's hardly a gentleman and he's a practical guy. We don't have to give each other gifts all the time. In general, we treat each other as buddies, best friends *kami*. But when it comes to our relationship, I definitely can count on him to be there as my boyfriend.—**Happy, 20, UA&P**

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Let's face it, at some point in time, we put on extra pounds and pack excess fat on our figures. If you're looking for a way to lose weight and stubborn fat and regain the slim figure you once enjoyed, now is the perfect time to do it. In celebration of its 16th year, Marie-France Bodyline gives you an offer you simply can't refuse. It's offering up to 50% worth of complimentary treatments upon enrollment from November 12 to 17, 2001. It's a special anniversary offer you really don't want to miss!

For 16 years now in the Philippines, Marie-France's scientific approach to weight-loss has made its distinct mark in the slimming industry. It is the first slimming center of its kind to originally introduce a weight-loss programme that doesn't let you starve or strain yourself to slim down. As Marie-France would constantly remind us in its ads, who wouldn't want to reduce weight and fat without having to go through torturous exercise machines, gruelling workout classes, unnatural pills or injections that leave you with side effects, stomach-aching hunger pains, potentially dangerous medications, or life-risking surgery? The secret lies in the Marie-France System: a safe, effective, effortless, and non-invasive slimming programme that will melt away excess fat, lose extra inches, firm up flab, and reduce cellulite with real and lasting results. This is the key to Marie-France's success.

Countless women who thought they'd never lose weight have discovered how easy it is to slim down and remain that way at Marie-France. Known as "The Marie-France Bodies of Evidence", these women take pride in having all the right curves and the confidence to flaunt them. Among them are Anna, Elle, Nancy, Jeanette, Evelyn, Raquel, and Connie. With the help of Marie-France, Anna Marie Golez noticed that her flabby

You have the hots for a gay man? How sad!

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

REMEMBER that cool commercial for the Philippine Ad Congress? It's the one where a dashing man drenched in sweat is running and there's this girl who, in slow motion, gazes at him and assumed he is headed toward her. A little later though, the god of rejection splashes Clorox on her face and she realizes that sweaty Mr. Runner's real target is not her, but another man.

How many women have actually experienced that? How many women have felt a big loss when they discover that the guys they adore are limp-wrists? How many people have lost their serious regard for popular figures who have been revealed to be homosexuals?

Gay everywhere

Stunning, irresistible, drool-worthy gay men—they're everywhere. The tanned, voluptuous gym instructor who has impressive bulges in all the right places. The witty, grammatically gifted yuppie with South Park ties and trysts at Starbucks every night. The multi-talented poet-musician-painter whose usual subjects are unconditional love and nudes. At home, in the court, in the workplace, in the media, in provinces, in movie houses, in five-star hotels—there's no place on earth where they can't be found. Actually, the world is not enough for them. I do not have sufficient proof but my friends and I believe there are extraterrestrial gay forms.

Going back to earthly gays, gone are the days when being gay automatically brought to mind Streisand, McDonald makeup and sex transplant. Such stereotyped generalizations are for the insipid, low-life forms. In this modern, digital age, gay men come in various colorful, environment-friendly boxes. Which means that Mr. Philippines 2002 might have a secret desire to be Reyna Elena after his reign.

More important than asking why men become gay is asking why some women want gay men.

Well, to start off, most gay men are concerned about their physical appearance. They have the discipline to regularly go to the gym so that they'd look fabulous in those muscle-hugging shirts. They're not afraid to try on all these beauty products usually made for women, just for the sake of looking like a gazillion bucks. They're style-conscious, fashionable, adventurous or at the very least, decent dressers. Except, of course, the queens of the world who consider their flamboyant costumes daily wear. (It's not their fault, however. It may be in the genes.)

What makes gays so desirable? Let me count the ways—with my chartreuse-manicured nails

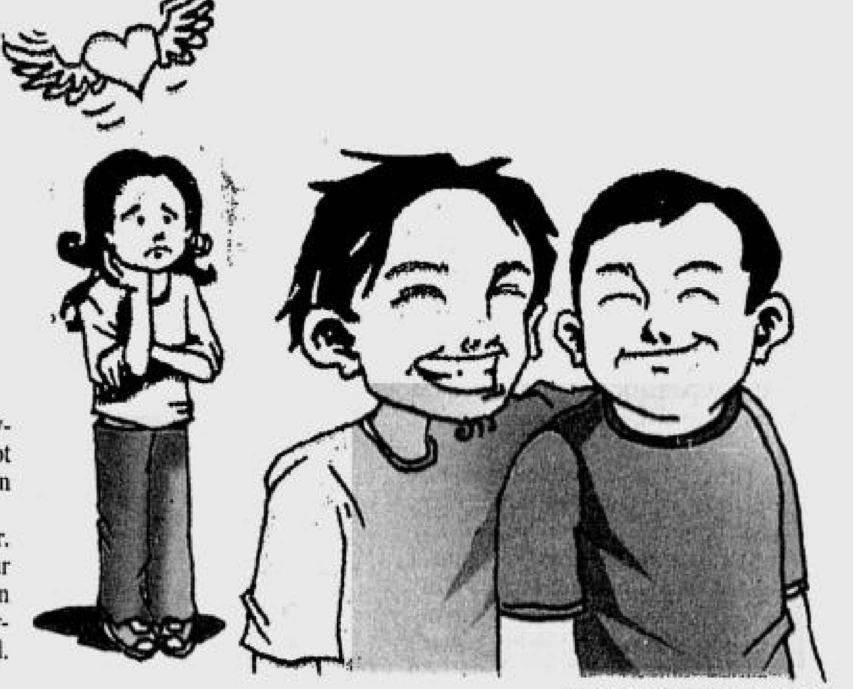

ILLUSTRATION: MANUEL ABRERA

And then there's the pig factor. Most gay men, as opposed to your typical oink of a man, act their own age, possess maturity, and are courteous, refined and well mannered. Also, they have no potbellies.

Glib tongue

Another impressive trait homosexual men have is the gift of gab. Take Boy Abunda or Steve Kmetko, for example. Not only can they instantly weave beautiful words together; they can also give witty remarks on almost everything. They're opinionated and sensible conversationalists. Plus they're good listeners, too. And, of course, they're so in touch with their feminine side and interested in girly topics that any girl can't help but be impressed.

Yet another remarkable gay trait is creativity. Gay men are so talented. They come up with the most entertaining ideas, create the most soul-stirring concoctions and produce the most awe-inspiring handiwork. Gifted with eyes for beauty, able hands for work and pleasure, graceful and flexible bodies, earth-shattering voices and pink brains that overflow with so much creative juice, they must have been beside God when He showered the world with blessings.

There's a catch, however. No matter how seemingly perfect gay men are, they will always prefer males to females, which is such a huge disappointment to the women.

So no matter how much women drool over Rupert Everett's buffed bod, or how many teenybopper fans scream for Stephen Gately, it just won't change the fact that these men will forever have spots in their hearts only for men. And even if you give Richard Hatch, the gay man who won a million dollars in the first "Survivor," another million dollars, he won't change his sexual preference. Then again, he could lie.

And then there are those who are "chickboys," as in "*puwede sa* chick, *puwede sa* boys." Personally, I believe in freedom of choice and in change. I believe that everything's possible and so I, for one, believe that there is a chance for all those hoping women out there. Majority of the female population couldn't care less if Ogie Diaz and Anselle Beluso did it with women, but they did, so there's still chance for Rupert, Stipe and the rest of their stripe to change colors.

At the end of the day, it all boils down to one's happiness and contentment. If you have someone to love, who miraculously loves you in return, be very thankful. Celebrate. Be grateful. Besides, why torment yourself by pining for someone you're sure you can't have? Why be sad when you can be gay?

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

"I got my odel-figure ack minus (23 lbs.)).43 kgs. of ost-natal fat!" -Jeanette
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"I'm now (31 lbs.) 14.06 kgs. lighter and much slimmer than before!" -Raquel
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tummy "became flatter and my thighs no longer had dimpled ripples of cellulite that were so obvious back then. I even lost the remaining 10 lbs. of excess weight which was so hard to get rid of before!" At 126 lbs., Elle tried to lose excess pounds on her own but to no avail. Now, a much slimmer Elle says that she "wouldn't have been able to lose 19 lbs. and maintain my current weight of 107 lbs. on my own without the professional help of Marie-France." Nancy Reyes tipped the scales at 135 lbs. of post-natal fat. Once she started her slimming programme at Marie-France, it was easier for her to lose weight. She says, "I never thought that I could lose 35 lbs. and keep my weight at 100 lbs. without exerting any effort at all!" Jeanette Jimenez-Pumaren quit modelling to devote more time to her family. When she reached 148 lbs., she went to Marie-France and is now 125 lbs. She is "amazed that Marie-France made it possible for me to be slim and to model again!" Evelyn Garcia wanted fast weight-loss results. She couldn't believe that she "lost 20 lbs. in less than two months!" Now at 108 lbs. with her new slim figure, she's confident enough to "buy my blouses at the kids section!" Raquel Tan became overweight at 131 lbs. after she gave birth. At first, she wasn't 100% sure that Marie-France would work but "to my surprise, I lost 31 lbs. and even regained the figure I once had when I was still single!" Connie Velarde's cellulite problem made certain parts of her figure look uneven. She was unable to get rid of her cellulite through exercise and aerobics. Thanks to Marie-France, she now "has a slimmer, more streamlined shape with hardly any trace of cellulite anywhere!"

With such slimming success stories, it's true that behind every woman who has become more confident of her sexier curves, more often than not you'll definitely find Marie-France. For further details on how you can become slimmer, shapelier, and sexier, call or visit any Marie-France branch near you and have your consultation for your particular weight-loss problem.

What's the most endearing and most annoying thing about your boyfriend?

By Mariless V. Villamar
2bU! Correspondent

AS much as you love your boyfriend, there are just some things you can't understand about him.

Does he really have to burp so loud that the people in the next table can hear? Can't he leave his Playstation for even five minutes?

But your boyfriend can be so sweet and thoughtful that you can forgive him for insisting on wearing a ratty old T-shirt to a bar while you're dressed to the nines. It's dark anyway, right? No one will notice. You hope.

And so we asked some girls the question: What is the most endearing and most annoying thing about your boyfriend?

I hate that he drives like a maniac whether on the highway or in the village. But I really like it that he helps me shop and even gives me suggestions.—**Cathy, 21**

Nakakainis when he cracks his knuckles, it really annoys me. What I like about him is that he remembers all the important dates, like anniversaries, birthdays.—**Moira, 18**

He's sweet and funny, but kind of *seloso*.—**May, 22**

My boyfriend is always *mabango*. What annoys me about him is that he's *seloso* and *matampuhin*.—**Mean, 24**

He's very friendly, but he's also kind of moody.—**Regie, 21**

He's very open. What annoys me is that he tends to break his promises.—**Hazel, 22**

I get so irritated when he comes late for our dates. He compensates *naman* by always giving me flowers.—**Marge, 24**

He's such a backseat driver, *parang nakakailang*. But at least he still lets me drive his car.—**Michelle, 18**

He dances funny. I don't know if he does it deliberately. What's nice about him is that he compliments me all the time, especially when I'm cranky or in a bad mood.—**Arlene, 23**

He's laughs at the corniest jokes, *sobrang mababaw*. But his sense of humor is what endeared him to me in the first place. Did I answer the question?—**Jessica, 22**

My boyfriend is a great cook and he can whip up anything. The downside is that he's become such a food critic, *takot ako* to cook for him.—**Pia, 22**

He's so sweet and romantic. But he can be a little insecure.—**Marga, 25**

My boyfriend is so *maasikaso*. What I don't understand about him is how he can spend up to five hours three times a week cleaning his car.—**Ellen, 17**

He's an outdoorsy person like me; we do a lot of sports together. Sometimes he can be kind of competitive though, even if we're just supposed to have fun.—**Gigi, 23**

My boyfriend is very supportive and sweet. His most annoying habit is putting his feet up on the seat in front of him in the movie theater. It's very embarrassing when the guard has to call his attention.—**Elaine, 21**

Endearing: When he gives me a massage after a tiring day at work. When he tells me I look pretty even if I obviously look harassed. When he acts like a baby. When he personally fixed the sink in my mom's bathroom for her birthday, while I was out of the house. When he watches chick flicks with me even though he thinks they're too sappy. When he is sappy and mushy about his feelings. Annoying: when he picks me up late. When he pretends to listen when I'm giving him a 'sermon.' When he smokes. When he forgets to text. When he is hot-headed while driving.—**Lana Go, 22**

Man-less and glad about it

BY SHERYLL LOPEZ
2bU! Correspondent

WHEN you're 20 years old, without a boyfriend or even a suitor, you are considered a freak in this world.

Yep, no matter how hard you explain it, you are the odd one out. Attending parties alone. Commuting alone. Spending Valentine's Day watching "Sleepless in Seattle" for the nth time. In family reunions you are always asked that one question: "Do you have a boyfriend?" That's because a lot of people think that a man is the be-all and end-all of a woman's existence.

So over a perfectly good slice of chocolate cake, I considered the question: "Why do I choose to be without a boyfriend?" I do not completely understand men. It is not possible and I don't attempt to. But this is what I know.

First: I don't have to worry about gaining a few pounds. That's why I can enjoy a perfectly good slice of chocolate cake without guilt. I don't have to worry about trying to fit into a tube top for our (my hypothetical boyfriend and I) Saturday night date. I don't have to count the calories in a box of Oreo just to keep my boyfriend's eyes from wandering. I can indulge myself with a whole order of chicken cutlets from the Aveneto without worrying about my abs. You see, men are very visual creatures. It bothers them to see their woman even with a little fat. No such thing as unconditional love unless you go to the gym first.

Second: I'll be known just as me and not as someone's partner. "And hypothetical boyfriend" does not become my new last name.

Third: If all I needed was just someone to bring me home from school, there's always carpool, my dad and commuting. If what I needed was someone to carry my things for me, four males in my *barkada* can do it. True I can't expect much from them on Valentine's. But come on, it's just one day in a year. To quote Bridget Jones: "Valentine's Day is purely commercial, cynical enterprise, anyway. Matter of supreme indifference to me."

Fourth: Cliché and a truth: I had the privilege of knowing myself better. I have heard this a lot of times and it's true. People make the mistake of jumping into a relationship without knowing who they really are. You have to take time to learn even the simplest things about yourself. We're individuals. We're not extensions of another personality. You don't have to pretend you like R&B music because your boyfriend does. Or eat blueberry cheesecake even if you think it tastes like perfume.

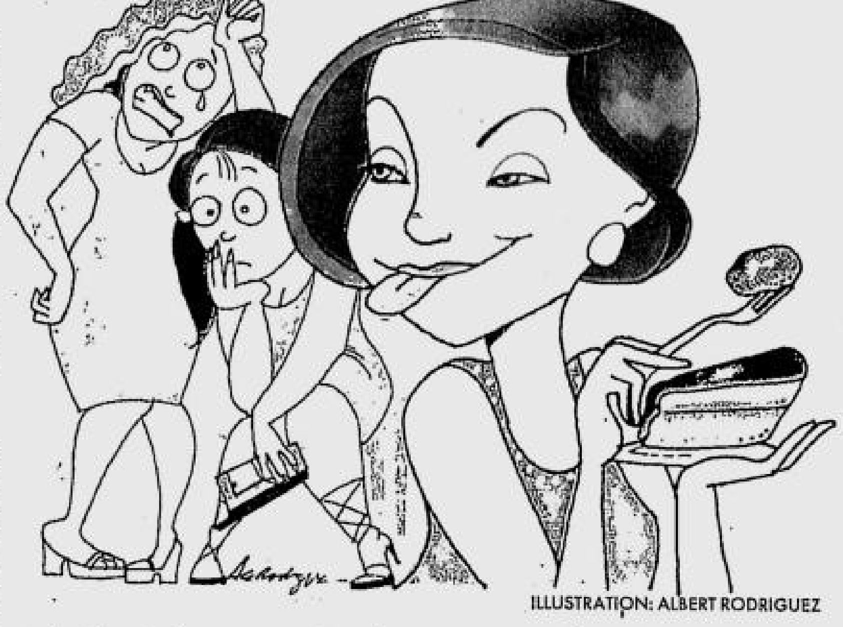


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Fifth: I heard this from the creator of the TV series "Sex & the City": *Often, women look for that someone to complete themselves. But that just doesn't work because you alone should complete yourself.* Before I chose to remain unattached, I had the illusion that there was 50 percent of me somewhere in the world. I would walk around expecting the next man to be that 50 percent. That's why it was so easy to believe that you were in love although you were really in love with the idea of being in love. Blame Jerry Maguire and his "You complete me" line.

Sixth: I can be friends with all the guys I want without anyone hounding or interrogating me. A friend told me what a great feeling it was to go to a party and mingle with all sorts of people. It's much better than sitting in the farthest corner of the bar with your boyfriend, watching everybody else having a good time. Being single gives you more freedom.

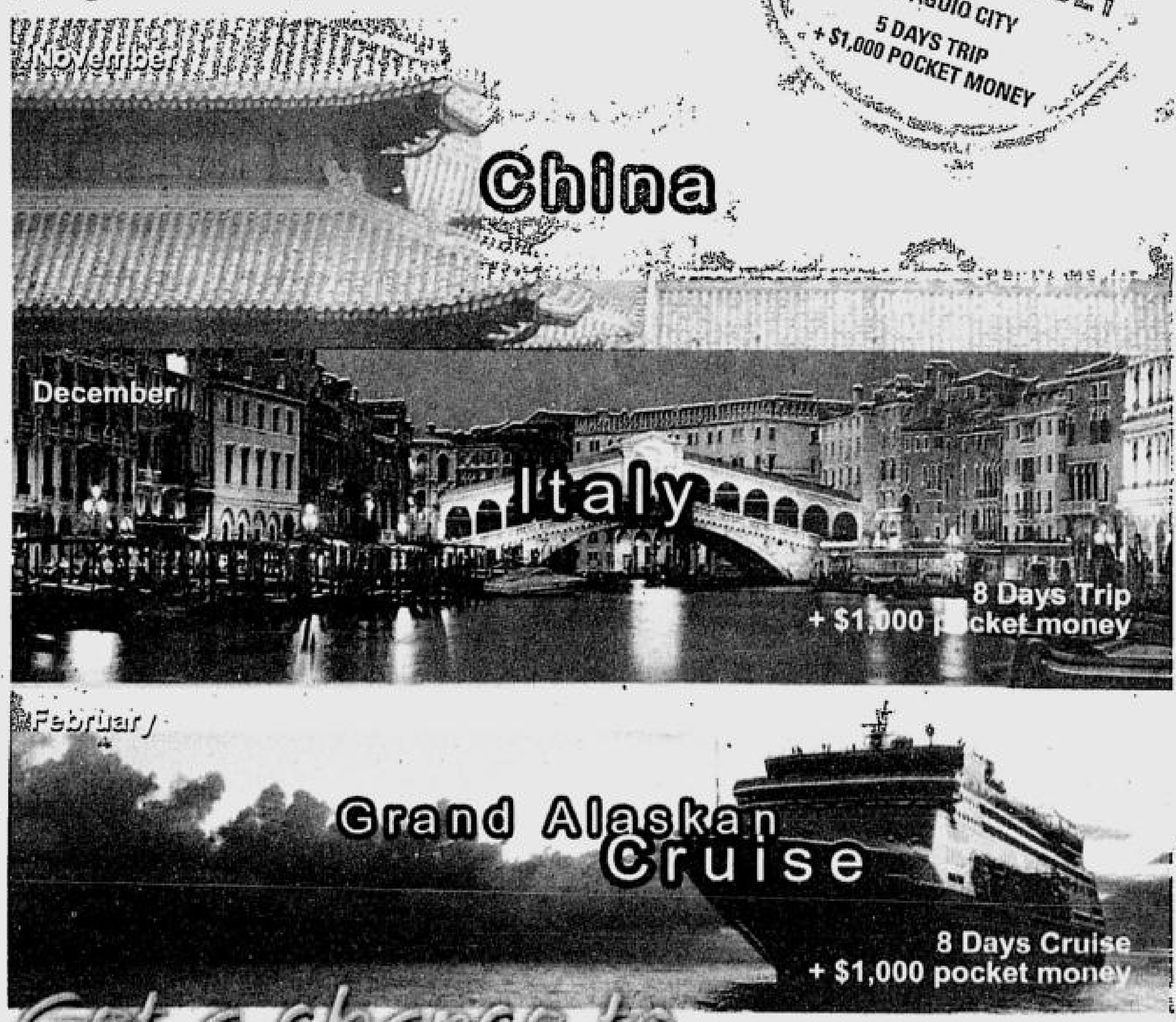
Seventh: With just too many assholes and perverts out there, this is probably a major reason I choose to be single. Every single encounter with an asshole reaffirms my commitment to remain unattached. A friend told me that assholes act the way they do because they think they're God's gift to women. I think assholes are the way they are because they can't accept the fact that women can be better than them. Believe me, I've met all kinds: jerks, commitment phobic, chauvinists, players, liars, peeping toms, egotists, maniacs, etc.

Eighth: I don't have to listen to mushy songs, do mushy things, write mushy letters and say mushy words. I used to listen to Sunday Slowdown regularly, which fed my illusion of undying, unrequited and true love. Now I only listen to a lot of guitar, bass and screaming. It feels much better.

Ninth: My life is complicated enough. I don't need someone to complicate it further. It breaks my heart to see my friends distressed over a guy. "He didn't call." "He didn't show up." "I saw him with another girl." "He spends more time with his friends than me." "He cancelled." "I think he's breaking up with me." "He thinks I should give him space." "But he just wants to be friends." "He wants us to get back together." "He's a bad driver." I have heard these and more. Thank God all I have to worry about is getting home by 8 p.m. on Tuesdays to catch "Ally McBeal."

Tenth: Cynthia Alexander, in her song "Walk Down the Road," could not have said it better: "I'm glad to be on my own. I have never been this free…I've never been so alive, so much in love with life."

So I'm fine just the way I am, thank you very much. I'm fine being alone, fine without a man. People tell me I'm just saying that because I haven't met my man yet. Well, I'm not holding my breath waiting because I like me just as I am. Being single isn't about not having a man. It's about having fun, knowing yourself and having a perfectly good slice of chocolate cake.



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For every P2,000 purchase of HCG bathroom fixtures and accessories, you can join the monthly HCG Getaway Raffle! The sooner you buy and the bigger your purchase, you get more chances of winning all four getaways!

Prizes:
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- For every purchase of P2,000 worth of HCG bathroom fixtures and/or accessories in a single receipt, a consumer is entitled to one raffle ticket.
- Valid purchase receipts are those receipts made within the promo period only.
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- Drop your raffle ticket(s) at designated drop boxes located at the participating distributor outlets or mail to HCG Package Getaway Raffle, HCG Head Office at 1163 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.
- A winner may win more than once. All non-winning coupons in the previous draws will automatically be included in the succeeding draws.
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- There will be four (4) raffle draws. One winner will be drawn every month scheduled as follows: October 31, November 29, December 22, 2001 & February 15, 2002.
- Monthly deadline for submission of raffle coupons: October 17, November 15, December 15, 2001 and January 31, 2002 for the grand draw.
- Monthly raffle draws will be held at HCG Head Office in Makati every 1:00 p.m. in the presence of a DTI representative. Monthly winners will be notified via registered mail and published in leading newspaper within a week after each draw.
- Winners must present the registered notice together with the claim stub and any of the following: a valid ID, Driver's license, Passport, SSS or birth certificate to claim the prize/s. Prizes may be claimed at HCG head office at 1163 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from notification will be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.
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'Ligaw' don'ts 101

BY MARIA CELESTE B. GOMEZ
2bU! Correspondent

GUYS out there, listen up! Since this issue of 2bU! is especially for you, we have a special something for those who seem to be lost in the courtship maze. Have you ever wondered why your Romeo styles aren't effective enough to get your Juliet's heart? Is your style romantic enough or just plain stupid? Are you using the right way of luring your Aphrodite or are you still stuck with "roses are red, violets are blue…"? You may have the looks, the money and the guts—but do you have the moves? They say prevention is better than cure, and so we give you what moves you should not do. Now we're spilling the beans! Read on and uncover the don'ts of getting the girl of your dreams.

Don't use cheesy pick-up lines. It might work in other cultures, but not really in ours. Although these lines are catchy and funny, they are also so unreal and impersonal it becomes more of a turn-off to girls than a plus point.

Well-known cheesy pick-up lines:

- "Do you believe in love at first sight, or should I walk by again and look at you the second time around?"
- "The only thing your eyes haven't told me is your name."
- (With hands on shoulders) "Oh, those are shoulder blades, I thought they were wings."
- "Are you lost, ma'am? Because heaven's a long way from here."
- "Do you have a map? I just keep on getting lost in your eyes."
- "You must be a hell of a thief because you stole my heart from across the room."
- (Guy looks at girl's shirt label) Girl says, "What are you doing?" Guy responds: "Just making sure that you're made in heaven!"
- (While looking at stars) "I didn't see any stars in the sky tonight, because the most heavenly body was sitting right next to me."
- (Closes hand with nothing inside and gives it to her) "It's my breath from when you took it away." (Opens palm while saying this)
- "Is your dad a terrorist? Because you're a bomb!"
- "I lost my virginity, can I have yours?"
- "Are you tired? Because you've been running in my mind lately."
- "Are you an alien? Because you're out of this world!"
- "Is your father a thief? He must have stolen the stars and put them in your eyes."
- "Do you have a name, or can I call you mine?"
- "My head still hurts, because I just fell… in love!"

Don't invent a whole new you just to get her to notice you. Let the girl like you for who you really are. You wouldn't want to lie your whole life, would you?

My mother and I were at the supermarket when this tall guy approached us and said, "I'm sorry I can't help it, you're very pretty. I'm Jay, a basketball player from Alaska. Are you sisters?" I can't believe he even lied about who he is just to get my attention!—**Jennifer, 20**

Don't let other people do the moves for you. Be the one to approach and start the conversation. This lets the guy have a better first impression from the girl (because we know how many guts it takes to do the first move).

My friends and I went dancing at Strumms Makati when a young girl whom I didn't know just came to me and asked, "*Marunong ka bang mag*-swing?" It was such a really weird situation but I still answered politely, "*Hindi masyado.*" Then the girl looked at the guy she was with and told me, "*Kasi 'yung* brother *ko magaling mag*-swing. *pwede ka nyang dalhin*!"—**Barbara, 19**

Don't come unprepared. Courtship can't be won without a well-prepared and practiced (in the case of a *harana*) "battle plan." It may sound a bit obsessive-compulsive, but hey, at least it can save your ego in case things don't work out well in the end.

There was the time when a guy who courted me for three years in grade school decided to court me again. We were already in first year high school when one day, while I was doing a project in school, all my classmates started teasing me and cheering for the guy (he was not my type but he was cute). When he entered the classroom, he approached me while I was in front of the class and handed me a bunch of roses. I stood frozen for a while because I realized that he had actually gone to the toilet and put toilet water in the bottle where he put the flowers. I was so embarrassed.—**Nicole, 16**

There was this guy, he picked up his friend's guitar, and feel *na* feel, started playing and singing for me. *Kaso lang*, he knew about only three chords in the guitar and was out of tune half the time. Sorry, man, win your girl in another way.—**Ava, 19**

Don't be a *sigurista*. If you want to court a girl, please do it one at a time. You should know that we girls have networking powers and really efficient radar—news can travel faster than light!

It was Valentine's Day when I suddenly got a plastic rose in a clay pot given to me by this certain guy that our whole *barkada* didn't like. I was so surprised I called the rest of the gang, then I realized that he gave the same fake flower to two of my other friends. He was certainly a very stupid *sigurista*.—**Margie, 19**

Don't ever ask the girl what you have to do as a suitor. This is your problem, not the girl's.

I was talking to this guy on the phone when he suddenly asked me if he could court me. I told him it's all up to him because he's the one doing the stuff anyway. He then asked, "So, does that mean I have to carry your books?" Duh!—**Carla, 19**

British invasion, PINOY STYLE

(From page C8)

only reason I went with them this holiday. It's not *shawarma*, it's 20 times better.

What's one thing you find annoying here?

Ummm... Traffic? Yeah, but you get used to it. The way people... they bite you. You do something well and they'll find or say something wrong so that you don't get the respect you deserve.

What's the main difference between the girls in the UK and the girls here?

Looks-wise, the girls here are 10 times better. The girls in England are bigger than you, they're tough and they're easy, and I don't like women who are like that. I find the women here much more intelligent. Filipinas are a little bit too clingy. At least the English women let you do what you want to do. Over here they kind of choke you; they try to change who you are.

What was the most unmanly thing you did?

Halloween night! (Laughs) I dressed up as a complete slut. I was fully dressed up. Glitters, makeup, pink outfit. I have three sisters and they put my wardrobe together... I was a sexy momma! (Laughs) the only thing I forgot to do was wax but I wouldn't go that far. I had to tell my dad (since Derek's photo came out in Yaparazzi), "Tell your friends it was Halloween night, please," and he went, "I have three daughters, I don't need another one." (Laughs)

Greatest accomplishment so far?

I'd say finishing two majors at a university in England. It was a hard course, electrical engineering; at the same time, I was going through depression because of the environment I was in. To overcome that and be successful with my grades...

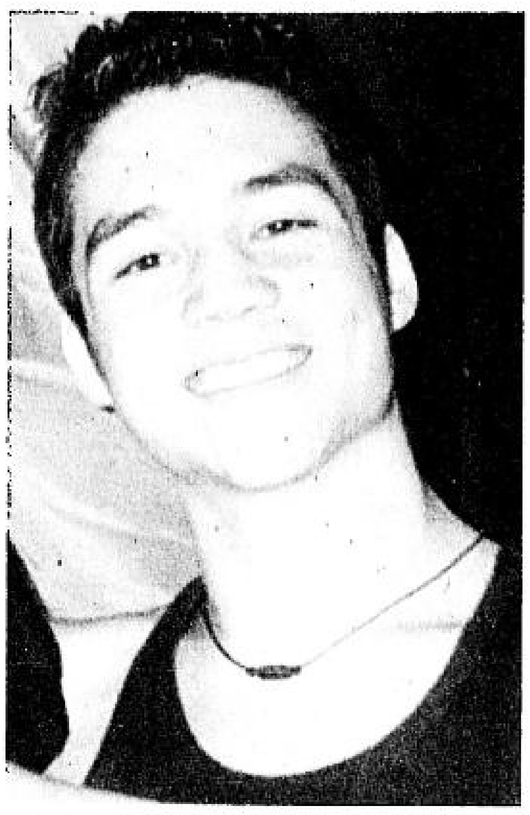
Luke Mucklin

How did your modeling start?

I did Bodyshots in England and I won to my surprise. I had thought Paul (Hammond, Pinoy-Brit model) would win it! If I didn't win I would have worked in a campsite.

Since youre a big fan of films, what's the best guy flick?

"Road Trip" has to be the funniest guy flick.



LUKE MUCKLIN. "You have to be ruthless in this business and that's what people are and things get into their heads and they enjoy too much, and it affects people."

PHOTO BY CHERYL TIU

Favorite movie character?

Vinny Jones as Bullettooth Tony in "Snatch." Just punches the guy then answers the phone, "Bonjour?" (Laughs)

For you, is it easier to become popular here or back home?

Here. I could be popular back home, but it will take a long time, like eight to 10 years. But here it took me seven months and I'm already in magazines, commercials...

What do you find annoying here?

You can say one thing that's wrong and it gets spread around so quickly. I know it's like that all over the world in the entertainment business. But here they're so sensitive. You say one thing wrong, people are so like sensitive, they get all paranoid, they start talking, say stuff behind your back. It's annoying because people just downgrade you and ruin your career all because they think you're wrong. You can be the most talented person in the world, but if they don't like you, you won't go anywhere. It's stupid, it's sick. I'm sick of it that's why I'm going home. I think you've got to be ruthless in this business and that's what people are and things get into their heads and they enjoy too much, and it affects people.

A reason to stay here?

A very, very good job offer. That's never going to happen, man. I didn't come here to do ramp shows. I came here to do commercials, but I was doing commercials back home. I came here to be in show business, to be on TV and so many people promise you so many things, but they don't lift a finger unless you sign a contract.

A reason to go home?

Her (Paula, Pinay-Brit model and friend).

You can't stand the backstabbing here, but you want to get into show business. So can you handle the scrutiny?

Well, it's always done behind my back. People don't do it in front of you or in front of me because I might break their arms or legs. I guess, I just have to be a strong person and take it. It doesn't matter how kind you are to people, people just [hit] you anyway, so what can you do? I don't know what to do. My dad just says, carry on, don't listen to them. It's hard to let those stuff be said to you and you don't know the reason.

What are you most proud of?

My parents because they're there when I'm [down].

Any advice to those who want to come over here?

Maybe I'm in a hurry to get things, maybe it's me, but I've had my good times out here and I've had my bad times.

Future plans?

Travel everywhere from Manila to Hong Kong right through the Middle East right through Europe. What's the point of staying in one city?

Who is your hero?

Which famous living person has touched your life in a significant way? Send in your votes for 2bU!'s 10 Youth Heroes. E-mail us at ls_2bU@inquirer.com.ph or write to us at 2bU! Heroes, Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

Cheering contest finals on Saturday

THE 5TH Johnson's Pure Essentials cheering competition grand finals will be held 12:30 p.m., Nov. 17, at the Araneta Coliseum, QC.

Cash prizes amounting to P50,000 (first prize), P35,000 (second prize) and P20,000 (third prize) await winners. A total of 21 schools from Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao and Iloilo are competing.

Participating schools from Metro Manila are: Division —Poveda Learning Center, School of the Holy Spirit, Miriam College High School/School of St. Anthony; Division 2—Elpidio Quirino High School, Philippine Women's University and The Sisters of Mary School; Division 3—Pedro E. Diaz High School, Assumption College, De La Salle Zobel School; Division 4—OB Montessori Center, Colegio de Sta. Cecila and Pasig Catholic College.

Provincial participants are: Cebu—Abellana High School, Basak National (Day) High School and Basak National (Night) High School; Davao—Davao City National High School, Ateneo de Davao University and St. Mary's College; Iloilo—Iloilo City National High School, Oton National High School and Central Philippines University.

Admission to the Johnson's Pure Essentials Teen Cheer Competition is free. Call Events Circuit at 812-7108.

The Feminine Facts Series

Empowering The Filipina through Education

FACT # 3 THE TREATMENT OF CERVICAL CANCER IS EXPENSIVE.

Part 1 of this series discussed the basics of cervical cancer and its present state in the Philippines. As the second most-occurring cancer (next to breast cancer) in women, cervical cancer has become a real, looming threat. DOH studies reveal that 8 women die from the disease daily. This means a death of a female family member every three hours. And each year, the statistics for cervical cancer continue to rise.

Part 2 went on to discuss about different methods of detecting the dreaded disease. Part 3 will now tackle the issues on its treatment.

The methods and costs of treatment for cervical cancer vary according to how early or advanced the disease is. And while private and government hospitals use the same treatment methods, these hospitals differ in the fees they charge. The fees are lower in government hospitals, such as the Philippine General Hospital, where the government shoulders a large portion of the costs of treatment.

Is there treatment for cervical cancer?

Yes, but the effectiveness of the treatment will depend largely on the stage of the disease. If the disease is still in its pre-cancerous stage, the treatment is simple and yet highly effective. However, when the disease has become a full-blown cancer, and has reached its late stages, then the treatment methods used are more complicated but their chances of curing the patient are lower. That is why the Pap smear is extremely important.

Pre-cancerous lesions on the cervix may be treated by burning (electrocautery), freezing (cryosurgery), or by excision either through the procedure called conization or the method called electrocautery excision procedure (LEEP). A hysterectomy may also be performed (the entire uterus is removed) if the patient has no intentions of giving birth anymore.

When the lesion on the cervix has reached an invasive stage there is a greater need to prevent its spread to other organs in the body. In its early stage, cervical cancer radical hysterectomy with bilateral node dissection is advised. At later stages, when the cancer lesion is big and the spread to other parts of the body is more likely, the treatment often used is chemoradiation - a combination of chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

How much do these treatments cost?

Treatment varies according to how advanced the disease is. Early detection means less costly treatment. The lowest fees are charged for treatment of cervical lesions that are in their pre-malignant or very early malignant stage. Cauterization or cryosurgery at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) costs around P350 only, while conization or LEEP costs close to P2,000, and simple hysterectomy of about P6,000 to P8,000.

For late-stage cervical cancer, wherein the patient faces greater threat from the disease and greater medical expense is required, higher fees are charged. At the PGH, for charity patients, radical hysterectomy costs P8,000 to P10,000, for the medicine and surgical needs alone. Complete radiotherapy costs about P10,000. Chemotherapy tops the list as the most expensive ranging from P15,000 to P30,000. The cost also differs should treatments be sought at private hospitals or clinics. An LEEP can easily fetch a 5-digit figure, while a radical hysterectomy can cost as much as P200,000. Complete radiotherapy costs about P100,000 and each chemotherapy session anywhere between P25,000 to 60,000.

Is there a cheaper alternative for the treatment of cervical cancer?

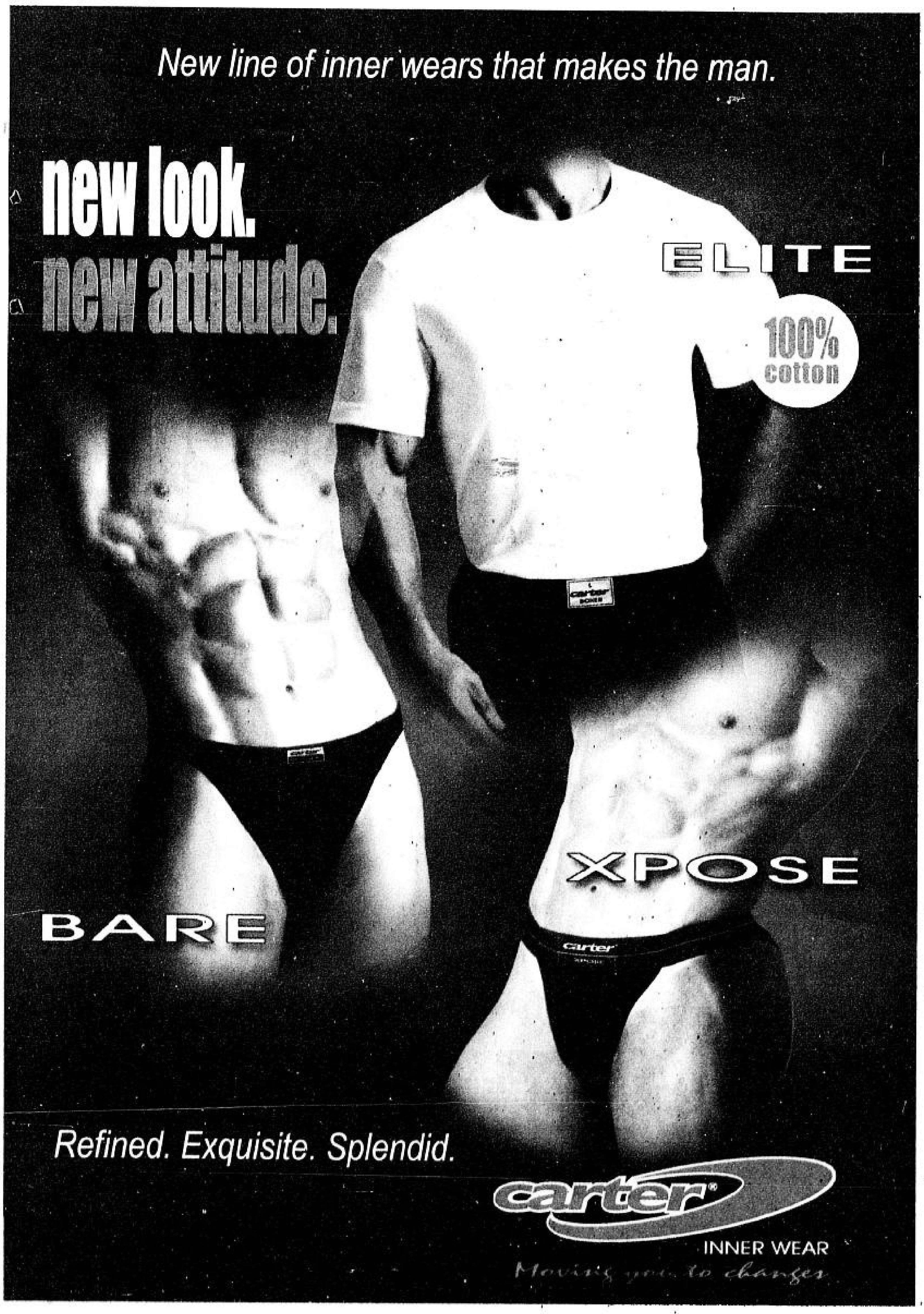
Early detection is the answer to stopping cervical cancer before it progresses. This can be done through a Pap smear exam at least once every year as soon as a woman becomes sexually active and especially after childbirth. This can cost anywhere between P100 at the PGH or P250 at private hospitals or clinics. The price to pay is minimal, considering the repercussions and risks involved later on.

An ounce of prevention is truly worth a pound of cure. You have the chance to save your life or of those you love by passing on this article for them to read. Learn more about the more accurate way to detect the deadly cancer tomorrow in Part 4 of The FEMININE FACTS Series.

If you are interested in a complete set of this four-part series, send a stamped, self-addressed legal envelope to: The FEMININE FACTS Series Secretariat, Marco Polo Medical Systems, Inc., G-12 & 13, San Jose Condominium, Maginoo cor. Masigla Sts., Diliman, Quezon City. You may reach the Secretariat through telephone numbers 434-6625 to 28.

For further questions about cervical health, contact Dr. Cecilia A. Llave, M.D. at the UP-PGH Cancer Institute, through telephone numbers and 521-8450 loc. 3928, or e-mail her at cipgh0@lycos.com.

The FEMININE FACTS Series is a joint effort of the UP-PGH Cancer Institute and Marco Polo Medical Systems.



British invasion, PINOY STYLE

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

HEY, it's another British invasion," I exclaimed as I skimmed through a local glossy magazine featuring 69 "gorgeous bachelors" in the Philippines. Most of the standouts were what some people would like to tag "half-breeds" and most of them were British. The Eurasian craze has been here for quite some time with the VJs and models having that spunky, laid-back and very witty attitude. Enter "chaps and blokes," exit the cowboys (Fil-Am boys). Here are two of the many "Brits" we see around lately. We asked 24-year-old Derek Ramsay and 21-year-old Luke Mucklin the usual slam-book modeling questions.

Derek Ramsay

How were you discovered?

I came back from boarding school in England and I was walking around Shangri-La. A guy came up to me and asked me and I told him honestly I didn't want to do anything of that sort. The guy was so persistent he went up to my father and set up an appointment. They spoke without me knowing and the next thing I knew, I was doing a pictorial.

Besides modeling, what do you do?

Work-wise I help out in my father's security company. But if I'm not doing that, I do a lot of sports. I go to the beach a lot, that's why I'm always so dark.

What were you like in college or high school?

(Laughs) There were two different things. In my first two years of high school I was the smallest kid on the campus. I was 4'11" in the second year, can you imagine that? After that I went to Europe and missed seven months of school. I went to England to play football and when I came back I was big and then that was when I became popular. They used to call me the crush *ng bayan* kind of thing. I was the prom prince, prom king, stuff like that. College *naman* I had better grades compared to high school. I had a GPA of 3.4. I guess, people knew me, too, because I was in the basketball team, rugby team. A jock, but at the same time I had good grades. I wasn't some dumb jock who only knew how to play sports.

What's the nastiest rumor you've heard about you?

(Laughs) So many, man! Like I walk around the mall with this kid (points to younger brother) and I'm sure there are gonna be rumors that I have a kid. Rumors that I was gay or when I left two months ago for Europe, I went to visit my pregnant girlfriend. I don't let rumors affect me because rumors are rumors. I know the truth, my close friends and my family know the truth, and that's all that matters to me.

DEREK RAMSAY. "I don't really consider myself a model. I don't walk around with a portfolio, that's why I consider myself really lucky. It's not my profession. But if I have a modeling job, I do the best of my ability."

Any experience of being discriminated?

All they say is that I'm just a pretty face, like I have no brains. In modeling, some say I'm trying hard, that I come from a good family that's why they got me. I'm not a Filipino, so why does he have a right to model here? I'm half-Filipino and I'm proud to be Filipino, at the same time British. I'm proud to be British even though I don't like it there. (Laughs)

What do "half-breeds" or mestizos have that Filipino models don't?

The advantage is their exposure to the Western side of the world. Actually we're all the same. Filipinos have strong blood and the half-breeds—most of them have that background—so I don't think there's any controversy against the half-breeds. But you can't blame the Filipinos because some of them do tend to come here thinking that they're better than the people here.

In a nutshell, has modeling been everything you expected it to be?

No. I expected it to be boring, to be full of hypocrites. There are some that go over the top, but then again it's a nice way to go out and meet people. It gave me confidence. I had a completely wrong view on modeling

What's one thing you miss in the UK?

The lamb kebab stores (Laughs), that's the

Move over, cowboys. Here are the chaps and the blokes

BRITISH/ p.C7

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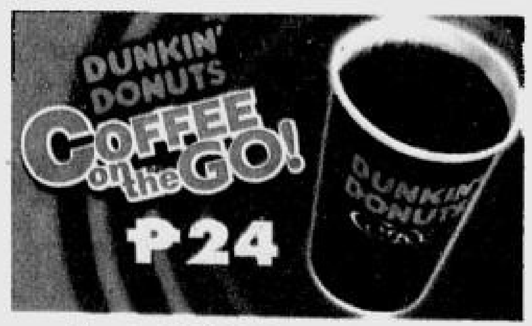

Three men
and a man-hater

By Margot C. Tan
Photos by Val Handumon

Men are pigs, bastards and airheads. But it's a privilege talking with them

(FROM LEFT) The player, the heartthrob and the jock

COMING from an exclusive and conservative high school for girls, my limited and relatively traumatic experiences with the male species have left me aghast and jaded perhaps for eons to come. In my personal and invaluable opinion, men are pigs, bastards and walking vacuums disguised as bipeds.

With a growing number of assertive women, I have joined the movement who want to have children but not husbands—enough with the martyrdom and masochism. We do not wish to ruin our beautiful lives for wretchedness' sake. Our gender has evolved into a more intelligent and prudent one.

Men, on the other hand, do not have minds of their own (my biology professor gives them too much credit). Dear God, I have yet to meet the testosterone-driven ape to prove me wrong.

Just like every other cynical girl around the corner, I am insecure, I shop in malls to feel better, I go on never-ending diets, and I classify male types in mental shelves and assign them certain characteristics and personalities. This shelving and branding are better known as stereotyping: the act of labeling people and acting as if you know everything about them. It's not a very healthy or positive thing to do, but we all enjoy believing we're better than everyone else in this.

For this article, I've had the, er, privilege of interviewing three men who have been assigned certain labels by their peers. They've been prejudged and seared like cows for steak on dinner plates. So while I bring out the forks, knives and bottles of A1, here's a peek at the fine afternoon we shared at the Starbucks Coffee in Rockwell Center.

The player: Manolo Kabigting (University of Asia & the Pacific)

Manolo gives the impression of an outgoing and funny type of guy. He's laid-back, relaxed and perky. Being the player that people say he is, he brought along a nice girl with him to the interview. I bore witness to their smiles and laughter, and was reminded of the lonely holidays ahead. Bah humbug!

How many girls have you courted?

Hindi ko alam e.

Honest estimate.

About five or six.

Just five or six?

Oo!

And how old are you?

Eighteen.

Ah... How many girlfriends have you had?

One.

(Friends in background: "Ten! Ten!")

Just one?

Oo! Conservative *ako e.*

Conservative? How come people say you're a player?

Hindi ko nga alam kung sino nagsabi na player *ako e.*

So you've never dated different women at the same time?

No.

Or have you ever tried to do so?

No.

Honest?

Umm, okay, I've tried.

How many women at the same time?

Dalawa lang! Magastos 'yun.

Why?

Wala lang. I didn't have a girlfriend at that time so it was really not a problem.

How old were you when you first courted a girl?

I was in first-year high school—14.

Hindi ka kaya ma-*karma *sa mga pinaggagawa mo?

No. There's nothing wrong with going out with different women. Take Muslims, for example. They have many wives but it's perfectly fine for them.

Does your mom know about all these?

My mom knows I have friends. But she doesn't know whom I court. But I'm very open with my Dad.

What was the meanest thing you ever did to a girl?

Umm... *nagpaasa. Isang beses ko lang naman ginawa e.*

What was the sweetest thing you ever did for someone?

Actually, I'm not really the sweet kind.

Could you imagine getting married someday, being tied down to just one person?

Of course.

So you're willing to turn monogamous.

Monogamous.

Describe a normal day for Manolo Kabigting.

First, I can't possibly live without soccer. I'm a varsity player of UA&P. I'm studious and friendly as well. I go to school, play in the afternoon, rest at night and use the phone. I'm not really fond of watching TV; I just sleep instead.

What are your other interests aside from soccer and women?

Basketball.

Show me how you'd pick up a girl.

You just have to look at her. If she seems nice and friendly, I'd approach her and introduce myself. There was this time in Baguio when I told this girl that my friend wanted to meet her. But I was the one who was interested. *Gan'un 'yun e, para hindi diyahe. Kunwari 'yung* friend *mo 'yung tuturo mo.*

The heartthrob: Jonjon Yulo (Ateneo de Manila University)

When people say heartthrob, we think of cocky men who talk, walk and act as if they were on top of the world. Jonjon, on the other hand, is one of the most quiet and shy guys I've ever met—unassuming and very humble. He's got a bashful air and he turns heads not because of his commanding presence, but

THREE/ p.D2

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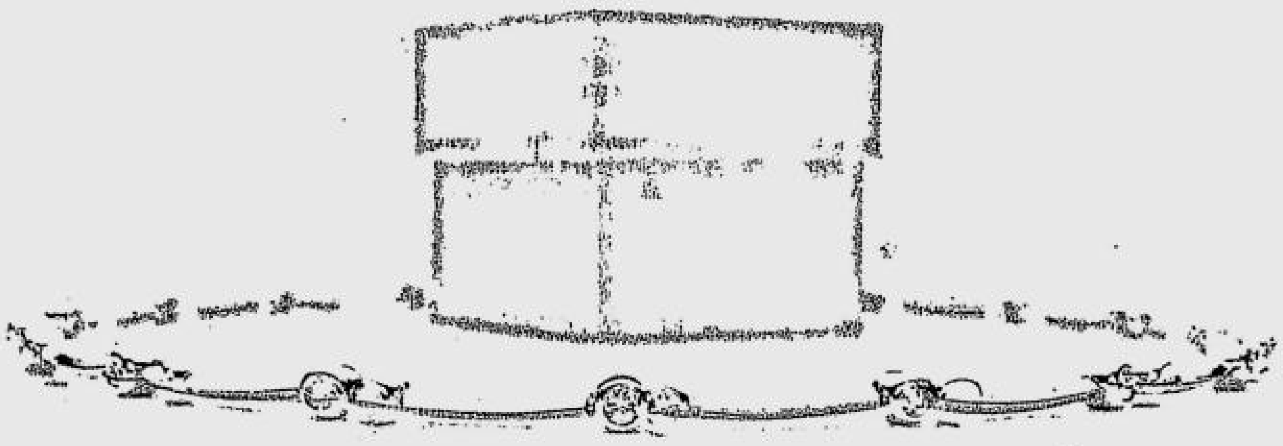

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Three men *and a man-hater*

(From page D1)

because of his gentleness and sincerity.

Your picture with your girlfriend was in last week's issue. Have you seen it?

Yeah.

She's very pretty.

Thank you.

Does that mean you only go out with pretty girls?

No, no, not necessarily. She's been my girlfriend for a long time. It doesn't mean I only go out with pretty girls. I guess she'd just have to be striking.

Have you ever had any embarrassing moments while you were out with a girl?

There was this one time. We were in a movie house, in the front row with friends. Jokingly she kicked off my sandals, so I went and got it. When I went back to my seat, *nakatayo pala*. I assumed *na nakaupo*. So I fell on my butt.

Has any girl ever made the first move on you?

There have been times when girls called the house, and through text I'd receive messages from unknown numbers. But that's all, no one has really come up to me.

How come? Do you put up an intimidating front?

No, actually I'm really quiet. Some people think I'm *suplado*, but no, I do think that I'm approachable *naman*.

What kind of girl would you rather have—aggressive or shy type?

The shy one. I don't like the wild kind; they're not my type. I like the quiet ones.

What was the biggest compliment you've ever received?

The compliments that make me feel good are the ones that come from older people. Like those from parents of my friends. If my mom tells me that the mom of this person says I'm so respectful and I have manners—that's a real compliment.

What was the biggest insult you've ever received?

I can't think of any because I don't really take things personally.

How would you pick up a girl?

Honestly, I don't think I'm the type who'd pick up a girl.

How would you reject a girl who proposes to you or shows interest?

If I really have to back down, I'll do it politely. I don't laugh at their faces or anything.

If you could trade people's admiration for you or your looks for something else, what would it be?

First of all, I don't assume people admire me. But if you ask that question, I'd say I'd like to have a talent. I don't really have any—I don't play the guitar, I don't sing and I'm not really good in any sport. Maybe a good voice or even just to know how to draw well.

What are your plans for the future?

Work. I'm really excited to get out of school and start earning. In 10 years, I'd probably be married and settled.

The jock: Joseph Yeo (De La Salle University)

I tell you, the Big Moose we've met through Archie comics does not translate into our very own local jocks here in the country. Joseph Yeo is testament to that—he's got a good head on his shoulders and a great vision for his future in life.

How did you get started with basketball?

When I was still 4 years old, my dad forced me to join a basketball camp. It started from there and *tuloy-tuloy na hanggang sa* school and up to now.

JOSEPH Yeo

JONJON Yulo

MANOLO Kabigting

What do you like most about basketball?

Sikat na sikat kasi 'yung basketball. There's the PBA and NBA. And like in UAAP, everyone watches the game. There's a lot of challenge in the sport.

Do you plan to make a career out of basketball?

Yes, hopefully. That's the dream of all basketball players anyway. We all hope we could find our future in the sport, maybe join the PBL, then PBA—to reach the pros. If not, then I'd like to make do with my own business.

Which team would you want to join?

San Miguel. All my idols are there, like Danny Siegle and many others.

If you had to choose between going out on a date or going to practice, which one would you choose?

Of course, I'd choose to go out on a date. That doesn't come around often. We have practices every day.

But are you allowed to date? I heard that the schedule of practices in DLSU is very rigid.

If there are conflicting schedules, I'll choose practice. We're really not allowed to skip any. Practice is practice; it's like school for us. We're all committed and we can't back down from that.

Who do you trust more, your coach or your mother?

Of course, my mother. I've known my coach only this year.

But who do you obey more?

Umm… Both, in a different way. I listen to my coach in basketball, inside the court. But when it comes to life and school, my mother, of course.

Is there anyone who could make you stop playing?

No.

Then what circumstance could do so?

Only if I get injured.

You're really good in basketball. If you could trade your talent for something else, what would it be?

I guess I'd want to be smarter because in basketball, once you get injured, that would be the end of your career. If you're smart, you'll still be able to find other ways.

So would you rather have intelligence than your skill in basketball?

Definitely.

Describe a normal day for Joseph Yeo.

In the morning I go to class and practice in the afternoon. I go home, I eat dinner, then sleep. The next day I'd wake up and do the same thing all over again.

Does your girl have to be sports-minded as well?

No, she'd just have to be understanding and supportive of my sport.

Games

A list of words was read out to the three guys, and they were asked to say the first thing that came to mind upon hearing each word.

Yosi.

Manolo: Okay *pero masama.*
Jonjon: Yuck.
Joseph: *Masama 'yan! Bisyo.*

Boobs.

Manolo: Ha-ha-ha! *Nagpapasaya sa lalake.*
Jonjon: I don't know.
Joseph: Wow!

Mass.

Manolo: I go every Sunday.
Jonjon: Weekly.
Joseph: It's holy.

Britney Spears.

Manolo: Sexy!
Jonjon: Hot.
Joseph: Yuck, *hindi ko* trip.

Midterms.

Manolo: Heavy part of the sem.
Jonjon: Hassle.
Joseph: *Wala*, no reaction.

Golf.

Manolo: Game for lazy people.
Jonjon: Okay. I used to play.
Joseph: Friends! I play golf with them.

George Bush.

Manolo: Better than Erap.
Jonjon: In trouble.
Joseph: I think of war.

Long nails.

Manolo: For girls only.
Jonjon: Okay *lang*.
Joseph: Okay! Type *ko sa* girls.

The definitive guide for understanding male eccentricities

By Gabriel H. Mercado

WHY do men like…

Walking around aimlessly in hardware stores

The late '90s brought a new shopping experience that has proved a big hit with men and a mystery to women—the Super Hardware store. Ah yes.

Rows upon rows of the latest construction materials, automotive supplies, electrical gadgets, not to mention the top draw—power tools, meticulously organized to get every spare change from members of the male population.

True, some men also wander into sporting goods establishments and groceries. But no man it seems can resist the lure of finely crafted German power drill, the gleaming sander, the custom fitting wood router with the adjustable grip and the tungsten-tipped saw that can cut finely through any type of wood (at least the brochure says so).

Mang Andoy, the neighborhood carpenter, will likely do a better job but the man who enters a hardware store has just got to have that router even if he does not even know the different kinds of wood to begin with.

When a man looks at those tools on display, he does not see them as expensive, complicated gadget-thingies the way women do. Most likely, he imagines himself wielding that tool with confidence and superb skill building himself a carved doorway, a closet, or a tree house for the kids. A man imagines handling a power tool the way a caveman uses a club—hitting some animal with it and hauling it back to the cave for the wife to cook.

Yes, a man makes believe that by using those tools he is reliving his traditional role—the provider of his brood. Which will probably explain why, when asked to actually do something useful with his gear like repair a creaky bed, he will demur. The gadget becomes more like a trophy, placed somewhere for all to see and admire. Use it to fix a bed? Unthinkable.

Sports

The Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) is winding up its games for the year. The Arizona Diamondbacks win convincingly over the New York Yankees. Greg Norman is inducted into golf's Hall of Fame and I have just adjusted my weekly schedule to accommodate as many games of the National Basketball Association (NBA) as I can. Taped to my television set is the schedule of NBA games that promises many hours of TV viewing pleasure.

To women, this is a pathetic way to live. However for the male sports fan, it is THE life. When they watch sports, women usually just see grown men running around half-naked in public chasing a red ball, or spending great amounts of energy hitting a little white ball then running around trying to catch it.

But guys see it differently. Game 3 of the World Series, the championships in baseball. Kim, a 22-year-old Korean pitcher for Arizona, plays in the greatest game of his young life. Hundreds of thousands of screaming battle-scarred New Yorkers are determined to make the situation as uncomfortable for him as possible. All he has to do is finish the game but instead he allows two Yankees two homeruns. Arizona loses what was considered a won game.

Game 4, still in New York. Kim has the chance to make up for his blunder the day before. You can see the strain taking its toll. His teammates jump at every call but egg him on. After disposing of one Yankee, he allows an astonishing homerun for another New York win. Your heart goes out to him. Beaten, his back is hunched, while thousands of New Yorkers celebrate and millions in Korea cry. Alone on the mound, he is the loneliest guy on Earth.

To me, there is more drama in sports than a hundred *telenovelas.*.That one example, although sad, defines sports.

Continuously wear shabby old clothes

Hey, if Michael Jordan can still use his lucky college jerseys when he plays, that means we can go around wearing our high school physical education shorts! I know it's disgusting and I wouldn't be caught wearing them in public. But they are just so darned comfortable.

The explanation? Well, this one's got me stumped, actually. I know I should be throwing away those briefs with the "bacon" garter, or that shirt with holes so large I could get my hands through one of them. But I just cannot bring myself around to doing it to the bewilderment of our maid who probably wants to use it as a rag. It's probably just bad habit. Or I'm just too cheap to buy new ones. Or both.

Wanting to be certain female body parts

My friend R is a "b" man, preferring to be in a woman's chest area. My other friend G confesses to be an "a" man, having an acknowledged fondness for a woman's behind.

Now such behavior is quite discomfiting to females and generally considered crude and ill-mannered. But any man will tell you in confidence that he has such preferences. I found out that this is something common to males.

Racing

By itself, racing is not a bad thing. It is an expression of one's competitive spirit. A man is able to test his skills and pit them against another's. The exercise is done to, among others, determine which model car is better, determine who has got superior driving skills, and feel good about one's self for having more money to buy a better car.

Racing is pursued by many because it is flashy and exciting. But if your man wants to race, suggest that he do it on a racetrack, or to use the money he wants to spend on an expensive car to buy a good go-kart. Otherwise if he is going to do it on the streets, better stay away.

Referring to their cars as 'she'

To men the single item that they feel most defines them is their car. It is common for a guy to run in the rain and risk getting covered in mud, if it will mean his vehicle remains spotless.

The reason is simple. Guys love their cars. They spend hours on it, tinkering with and polishing it that you can damage your eyes looking directly at it.

They spend so much (hard-earned or parent's) money on it a whole mini-industry exists in Quezon City just to satisfy their needs.

So why would he want to name his car after a guy, especially if he spends an inordinate amount of time with it?

Other men would probably vehemently disagree with everything I said, but I have never claimed to be infallible. However, many would agree that the differences between the sexes make relationships just that more interesting. I don't defend nor condemn guys for the stuff we do, neither do I think that a girl stands a chance of transforming a guy to her liking. That's how guys are. "Vive le difference!"

E-mail the author at freeurmnd@hotmail.com

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Guy words that baffle women

By Lisa M. Sobreviñas
and Raya Martin
2bU! Correspondents
Ateneo de Manila University

GIRLS have it. Gays do, too. So is it any wonder why even the guys have a language of their own as well?

At first, most of the guys whom I asked about their male jargon said they really don't have a language of their own. They were quick to deny that they sometimes speak a language only guys understand. I guess they just weren't aware that "guy lingo" exists. They don't do it on purpose, they say. Mark, a 20-year old premed student, says, "It's not like we start a dialect of our own to deliberately exclude the women or gays in our conversations. It just comes naturally to come up with words that are unusual to say and hear. *Wala lang*…we believe there are words that can be expressed in a more intense way. I mean, why do you (girls) have "Girl Talk"? In a way, we use those words to express our dominance…in the sense that we can't be understood by those who "don't belong." It's a guy thing, this jargon you think we have."

Point well taken. But even then, we at 2bU! think it's about time we try to decipher the meanings behind those weird words we often hear but almost always never understand.

We came up with some of the easier and less offensive words that guys themselves volunteered to share with the outsiders of the male species. (Read on girls!)

Guys' vocabulary

angas, *adjective*, tough, cool

"*Angas ng* BMW *mo*!"

astig, *adjective*, see *angas*

bagets, newbies

bakod, as in *mambabakod*, to cordon off a girl from other guys

bang-bang, *verb*, to fall for a girl; to like a girl madly

"*Bang-bang ako sa babaeng 'yun, ah!*"

basyo, *adjective*, loser (see **olats**)

batse, *verb*, to leave

"*Tara, batse na tayo!*"

bebot, *noun*, a girl

"*Bebot 'yung* drag racer, dude. *Astig!*"

benga, *noun*, a three-point shot; something that makes you feel like a winner

"*Pasok ba 'yung tira niya?*" "*Benga!*"

WHAT/ p.D3

'What we, men, want!'

By Maria Celeste B. Gomez

NO, I am not a guy with a girl's name. I am also not part of the population that considers the loss of the ESPN and Star Sports a matter of life and death. I just happen to be the spokesperson on what certain people, which we often refer to as the men, want.

After a few golf games, a couple of heart-to-heart talks and a few rounds of drinks with the species of the opposite sex, I began to discover their very own obsessions and must-haves. If the girls usually go for clothes, shopping and romantic movies, the guys choose to have a slightly different kind of domain, and these are what makes those testosterone-filled human creatures men. (Well, if not all of them, at least most of them!)

They say the greatest of all the manly desires is the desire to play sports. The adrenaline rush a man gets while shooting a three-pointer in basketball or making that 300-yard drive in golf is no match to any other boring everyday activity.

Physical challenge

Chucky Reyes, 19, started playing golf at 9. From his first tournament where he finished last, he became Rookie of the Year in Ateneo during his freshman year, the MVP in his sophomore year, the junior club champion in the country club, and became a member of the Manila golf team. His commitment to the game is simple. "I play because I enjoy playing," he said. "The day I'll stop playing is the day when I don't have fun anymore. Every time I play, I learn something. That's the beauty of golf, it can never be mastered. You just hope that you can play your best."

Engaging in sports is proven to be one of the most effective ways of stress relief. It also a way of bonding with the rest of the gang. Labeled a basketball fanatic by his friends, Gelo Guerrero, has been in the game since he was 4. He shoots every day in his own court. He would always look forward to meeting his *barkada* just to play basketball. There was even a time when he played three games a day before a huge statistics exam and ended up falling asleep without studying.

Both golf addicts, Brian Cu and Paul Sy have been playing golf together at Forest Hills since high school. Their fondness for the game made them skip the soirees and socials with the girls just to play. "The golf course is our second home. We play like there's no tomorrow," they proudly said.

Form and function

Aside from the show of skill and strength, sports is an ego-booster, especially when the girls are cheering in the sidelines!

Shades, shoes, sounds. These 3S of a guy's basic needs are more than just the plain old sunglasses, rubber shoes and Walkman. We're talking about sleek, stylish and trendy things—the latest brands with the top-of-the-line features and functions.

The most popular brands of men's eyewear these days are those with cutting-edge designs, like Oakley and Rudy Project, but with UV protection. Men have confessed that one wears certain shades for basically two reasons: to shield the eyes from the piercing sunlight and for aesthetic purposes (read: *porma*). Although the price is not that very friendly to the wallet (a pair can at least cost you P4,000). Oakley's unique designs and fascinating colors make the brand sell like hotcakes to eyewear fanatics.

The Nike Air Presto Shoe collection is the hottest men's comfort shoe of this season. It also comes in psychedelic designs that can be an ultimate head-turner. The great thing about Nike's collection is that there are a lot of designs for every particular color scheme.

We all know that guys don't like lugging around lots of stuff. That's why they go for the latest all-in-one gadget, the Sony CLIÉ, an electronic pocket organizer that lets you listen to MP3s, watch short videos and play cool games. This new handheld device from Sony is starting to make waves because of its high resolution screen that makes the images more vivid. Its audio device places the old Discman back into its box.

Toys for big boys

The little boys may have their own G.I. Joes and Matchboxes, but there are also toys for the big boys—cars (the real ones). Aside from dreaming about having a Porsche 911 or the latest Jaguar sports car (dream on), a guy can spend a huge amount of time tinkering and polishing the car and even spend a larger amount of money just to make the car more extraordinary and *pormado*.

But to the Vin Diesel and Paul Walker wannabes, their passion with cars is more than just tire black and turtle wax. It's about fixing up their car engines to the last detail until it fulfills their need for speed. Asked to explain, they said, "The kind of car and the way a car looks says something about its owner, making it an extension of one's personality. So it's like you're dressing up your car the way you dress up yourself."

A lot of people might agree with the statement, "Men are from Mars and women are from Venus." But after a whole week's worth of close encounters with the Martians, it seems that men are not that alien, after all. They just have their own version of what the women want.

Guy words

(From page D2)

***boots**, adjective*, from the Filipino word "*butata*" meaning blocked

"*Na-boots ako, hindi ako naka-benga!*"

***brad**, noun, kumpare*; a close male friend

"*Labas lang kami ng mga brad ko.*"

burat, a guy's thing, also used to describe disappointment as in *nakakaburat*

"*Nakakaburat* prof *ko, aga-aga ko dumating 'di pala pumasok.*"

chick, *noun*, hot girl

"*Sungit naman ng chick na dumaan.*"

chikas, *noun*, a group of girls

"*Daldal ng mga chikas, kahit kailan!*"

coño, *noun*, a rich kid

"*Uy, naka*-Rolex...*coño natin ah!*"

***deins**, adverb*, from the Filipino word "*hindi*" meaning "no" or "not"

"*Gimik mamaya? Deins ako pwede eh.*"

***diyosa**, noun*, a pretty, sexy girl

"*Mahirap maghanap ng* girlfriend *na diyosa.*"

***drobo**, verb*, to court a girl

"*Dinodrobo niya* ex *mo!*"

easy, *noun*, a girl sure to say "yes"

"Ask her out! Easy *naman siya eh!*"

epal: (aslo *pa-epal*) a scene-stealer, someone who will do everything to achieve something

"This new guy is *epal*, he answers every question the teacher throws at the class."

G.B., *noun*, short for "*gimik bastos*"

"Beerhouse? Tonight? G.B. *'yan eh. Bawal sa akin 'yan!*"

golets, *verb*, to go

"*Halika na! Golets!*"

hassle: literally means a nuisance often used to describe a circumstance.

"Out of the way *pa kung dadaanan namin kayo.* Hassle, pare."

hataw, to hit with great force

"*Hatawin mo na 'yang gago.*"

***hayok**, adjective*, a variation of the old Filipino expression "*hanep*" meaning great; used to express glee over something wild or new

"New car!! *Hayok!*!"

higop, *noun*, a homosexual; gay person

"*Masaya kasama ang higop, laging may kwento.*"

hustler, *noun*, a veteran

"*Galing mag*-basketball *ni* Benjie, hustler *kasi eh.*"

jologs: used in some ways to mean lower class people, also referred to posers

***kaboom**, adjective*, "great!," "fantastic!"

"A *ka sa* paper?! *Kaboom!!*"

kupal, *noun*, an arrogant, annoying and overbearing person

"Kupal 'yang lalaking yan eh. Ingat ka diyan."

olats, *noun*, a loser

"*Olats na naman* team *namin*. Bad trip."

***orocs**, adjective*, untrue; plastic (from the plastics company Oro Can)

"*Orocs naman mga taong 'yan! Ingat ka (ulit) diyan.*"

WHAT/ p.D5

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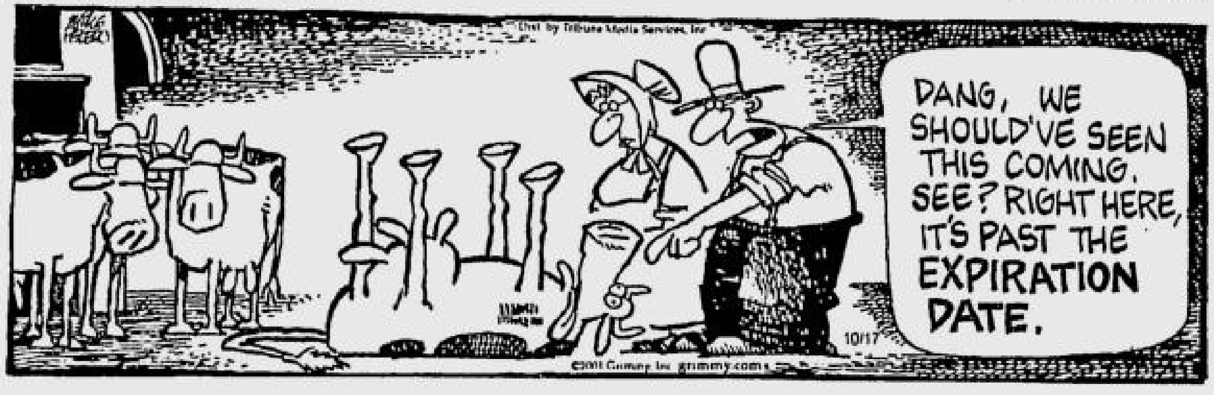
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


DANG, WE SHOULD'VE SEEN THIS COMING. SEE? RIGHT HERE, IT'S PAST THE EXPIRATION DATE.
10/17
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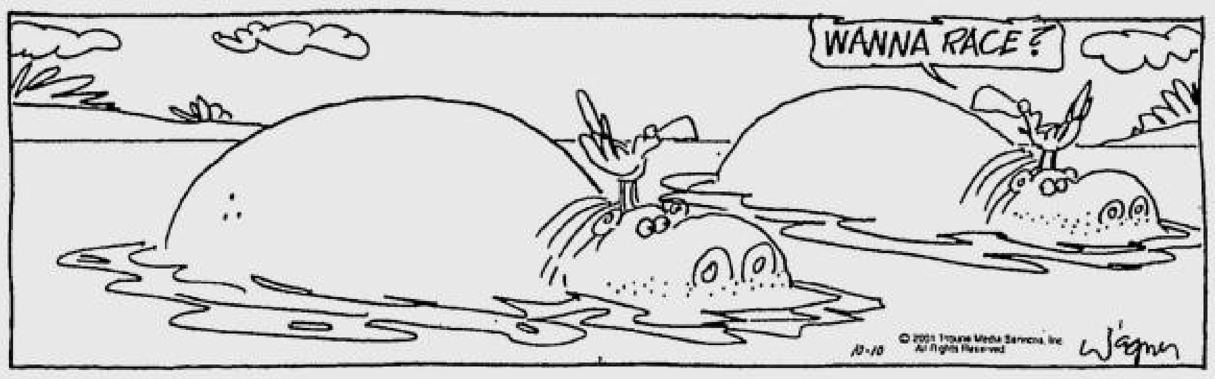
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WANNA RACE?
10-10
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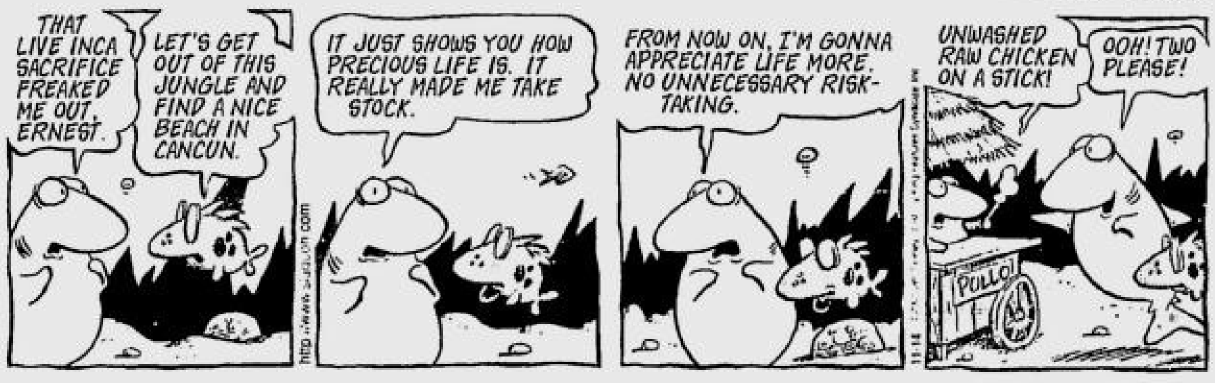
Wagner

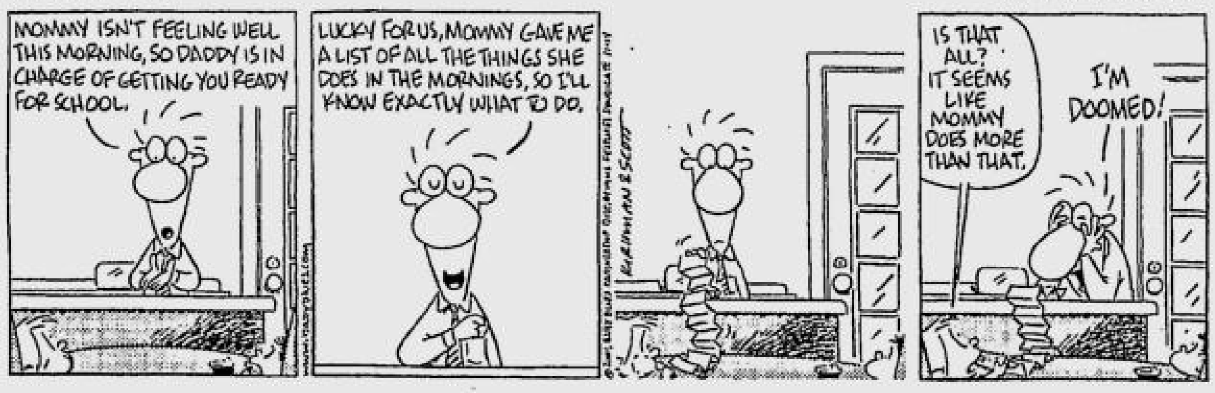
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THAT LIVE INCA SACRIFICE FREAKED ME OUT, ERNEST.
LET'S GET OUT OF THIS JUNGLE AND FIND A NICE BEACH IN CANCUN.
IT JUST SHOWS YOU HOW PRECIOUS LIFE IS. IT REALLY MADE ME TAKE STOCK.
FROM NOW ON, I'M GONNA APPRECIATE LIFE MORE. NO UNNECESSARY RISK-TAKING.
UNWASHED RAW CHICKEN ON A STICK!
OOH! TWO PLEASE!
POLLO

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMY ISN'T FEELING WELL THIS MORNING, SO DADDY IS IN CHARGE OF GETTING YOU READY FOR SCHOOL.
LUCKY FOR US, MOMMY GAVE ME A LIST OF ALL THE THINGS SHE DOES IN THE MORNINGS, SO I'LL KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
IS THAT ALL? IT SEEMS LIKE MOMMY DOES MORE THAN THAT.
I'M DOOMED!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Prince Charles, Boutros-Boutros Ghali, Yanni, Laura San Giacomo, Patrick Warburton

Happy Birthday: You will be in the limelight this year. Your innate ability to handle additional responsibilities will put you in an elite category. Your unique approach will bring added perks from those grateful for your expertise. Satisfaction will be yours. Your numbers: 8, 13, 22, 29, 31, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Play by the rules. Don't take advantage of your expense account. You will not impress clients by being generous. Do your job well to get the best results. Hard work will pay off.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be disciplined enough to get your work done and then may find yourself daydreaming. Find out what kind of deal you can get on your next vacation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may misunderstand a situation today. Don't let your emotions interfere with efficiency. You are likely to have difficulties with colleagues if you get involved in gossip.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can meet potential partners by socializing with new acquaintances. Join groups or clubs that offer something different. The more people you meet, the more you will learn.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful not to hurt someone's feelings. You may not do it intentionally, but the ramifications will be exaggerated. Compromise if you must to avoid feuds.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Insensitivity to other people's feelings will cause problems. You must be careful not to reveal secrets or exchange gossip today. Think before acting if you wish to avoid discord.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get involved in some wheeling and dealing today, but don't spend more than you can afford to lose. Real estate investments will be prosperous. Expect to make changes in your living arrangements. Secrets are likely to be revealed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Arguments will lead to preoccupation and carelessness. Try to channel your energy into physical activity. Make changes to your home that will please everyone you live with.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's time to keep a secret. Don't give out personal information that you don't want spread around. Someone you least expect may want to make you look bad.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can convince even the toughest opponent to think your way. You can assume a leadership position if you wish.

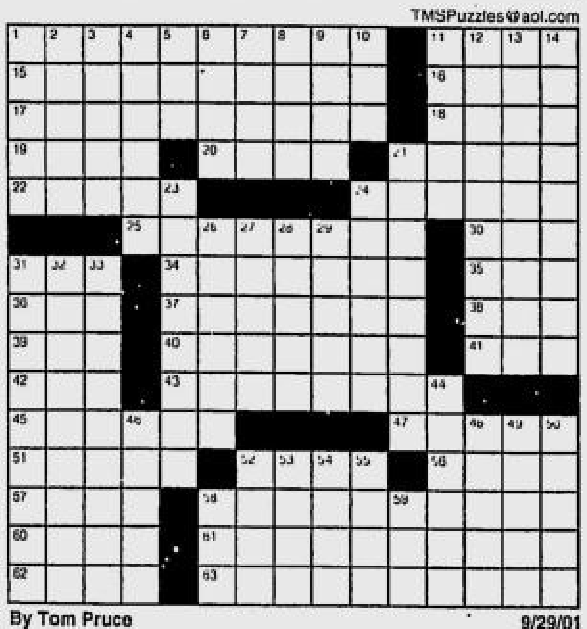
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time to focus on making some money. Financial investments with other people can be extremely prosperous. Partners may try to argue, so stand up for your rights.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you voice your opinions, you will be frowned upon. Someone may be trying to damage your reputation by twisting your words and using them against you.

Birthday Baby: You have a powerful way of expressing yourself and a courageous manner that will not go unnoticed. You will always go one step further.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

9/29/01

ACROSS
1 LPGA great
11 Swenson of "Benson"
15 Improve
16 Judge
17 Bring back inhabitants
18 Our moon
19 Israeli statesman Abba
20 Very dry
21 Shimon of Israel
22 Merchant's figures
24 One of the Borgias
25 Windshield cleaners
30 Flight from the law
31 Unit of elec.
34 Give ground
35 Verizon, formerly
36 Brooks of "High Anxiety"
37 Fertility goddess
38 Charged particle
39 Youth grp.
40 More heavily fleshed
41 Well-honed skill
42 Ostrich cousin
43 Deal maker
45 Outcome
47 Harvests
51 Voice complaints
52 O'Flaherty or Neeson
56 Shade source
57 Barbecue fare
58 __ Salt Flats
60 Capri or Man
61 Seller to the highest bidder
62 Let it stand!
63 Flights

DOWN
1 Nostrils
2 One-celled organism
3 Himalayan kingdom
4 Genetic copies
5 Puppy bark
6 Groza and Gehrig
7 Escutcheon border
8 Jack of talk shows
9 Major ending?
10 Omega's cousin
11 Runs in neutral
12 Paroxysmal pain
13 Dynamo
14 Wonder
21 Nag
23 Move hurriedly on hands and knees
24 Impact hole
26 Usher after intermission
27 Fragrant oil
28 Brooklyn art institute
29 Macabre
31 Perfume additive
32 Hypnotist
33 Apparently valid
44 Part of the eye
46 Underdog's victory
48 City in Provence
49 Martinique peak
50 Prognosticators
52 Clumsy clod
53 People of the Andes
54 Not pro
55 Former P.M. of Israel
58 __-relief
59 Type of sch.

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

F	O	A	M		E	M	A	I	L		E	S	P	Y
A	N	T	I		M	A	C	R	O		S	E	R	E
D	E	E	M		O	C	T	E	T		P	L	U	S
			O	R	T	H	O		I	S	O	L	D	E
E	M	I	S	S	I	O	N		O	P	U	S	E	S
P	O	T	A	T	O			O	N	U	S			
I	R	A		U	N	H	I	P		R	E	R	A	N
C	A	L	E		S	U	I	T	E		S	A	R	I
S	L	O	M	O		M	I	S	S	Y		D	E	F
			I	S	M	S			Q	U	A	I	N	T
B	A	N	G	L	E		E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y
O	B	E	R	O	N		S	U	I	N	G			
N	O	V	A		D	O	T	E	R		O	V	A	L
E	D	E	N		E	R	O	S	E		R	I	L	E
S	E	R	T		D	E	P	T	S		E	M	I	T

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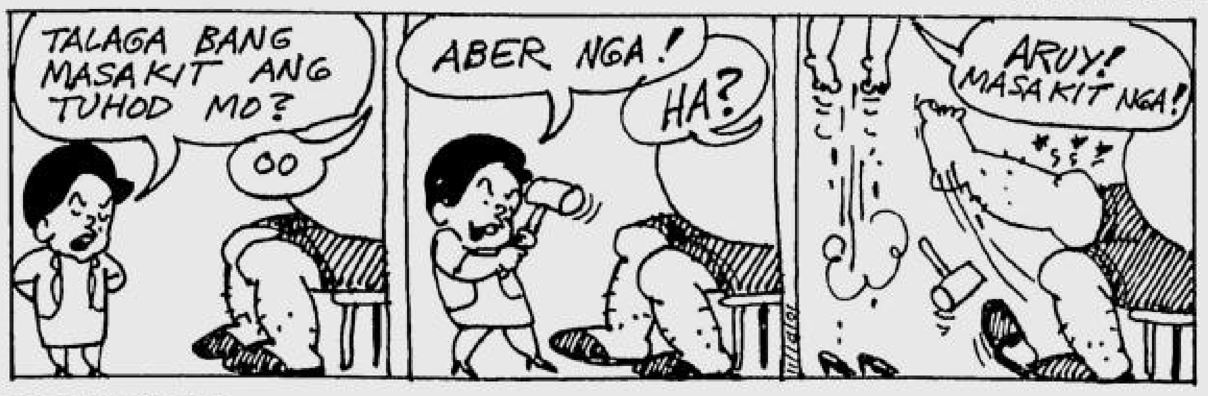
9/29/01

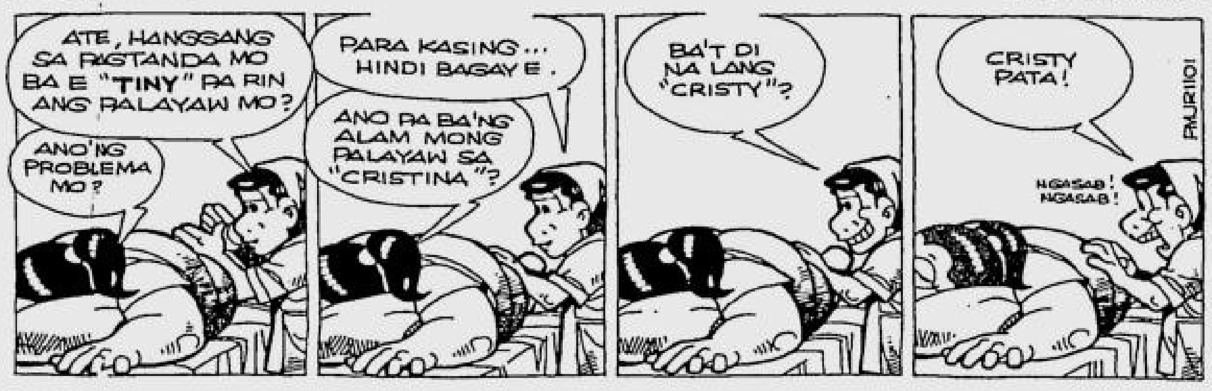
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TALAGA BANG MASAKIT ANG TUHOD MO?
OO
ABER NGA!
HA?
ARUY! MASAKIT NGA!

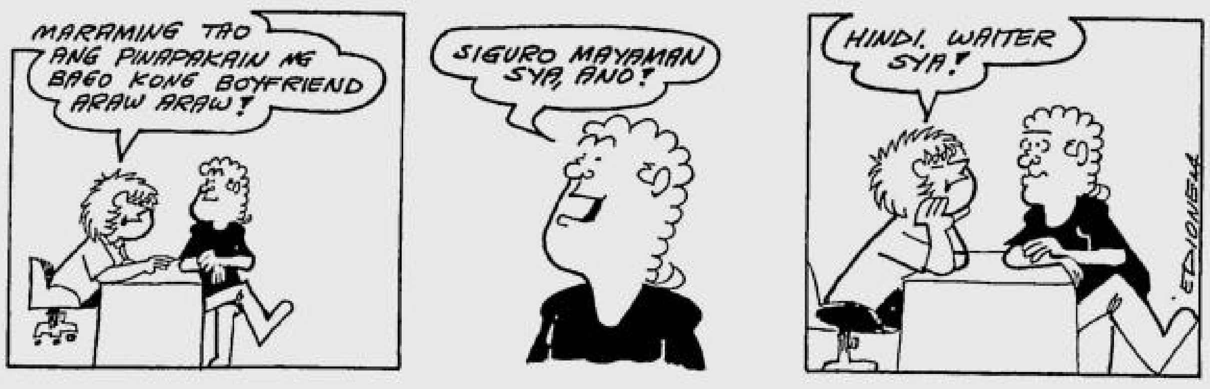
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ATE, HANGGANG SA PAGTANDA MO BA E "TINY" PA RIN ANG PALAYAW MO?
ANO'NG PROBLEMA MO?
PARA KASING... HINDI BAGAY E.
ANO PA BA'NG ALAM MONG PALAYAW SA "CRISTINA"?
BA'T DI NA LANG "CRISTY"?
CRISTY PATA!
NGASAB! NGASAB!
PMJR1101

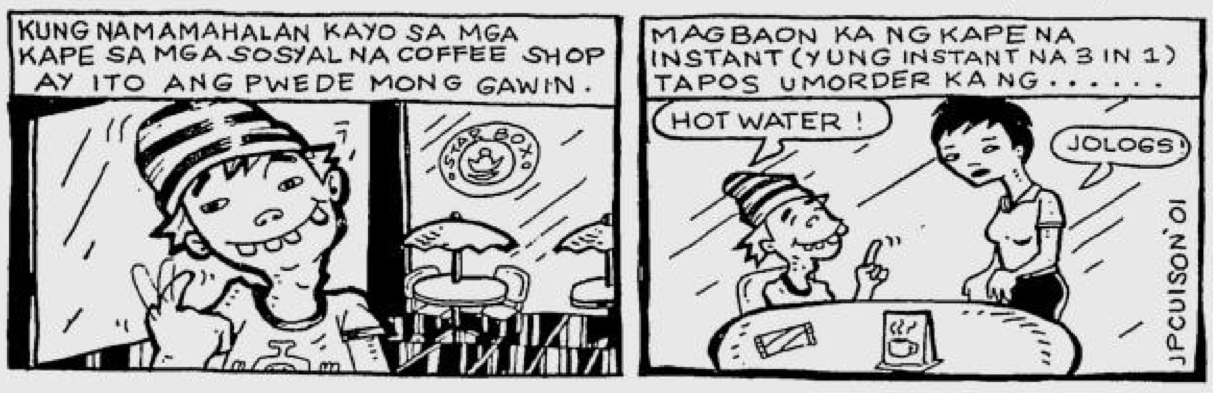
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MARAMING TAO ANG PINAPAKAIN NG BAGO KONG BOYFRIEND ARAW ARAW!
SIGURO MAYAMAN SYA, ANO!
HINDI. WAITER SYA!
EDIONELA

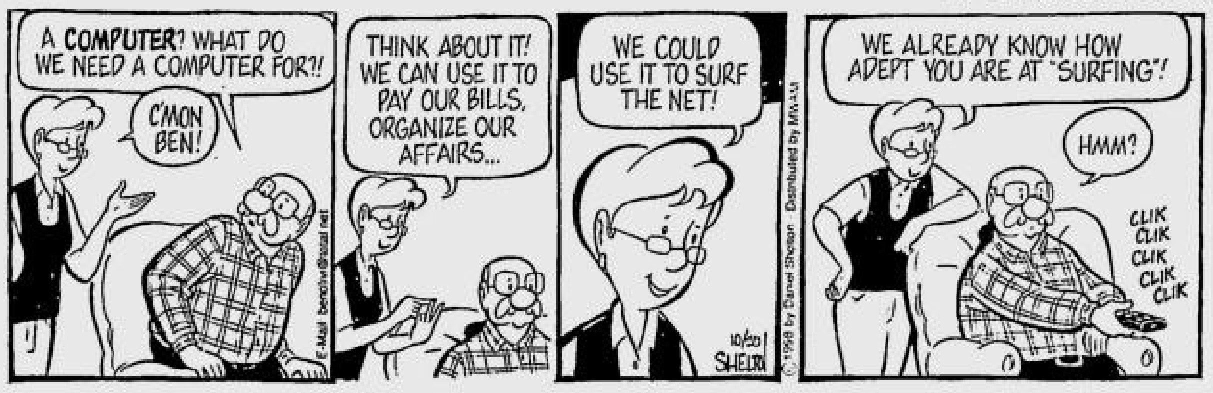
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


KUNG NAMAMAHALAN KAYO SA MGA KAPE SA MGA SOSYAL NA COFFEE SHOP AY ITO ANG PWEDE MONG GAWIN.
STAR BOXS
MAGBAON KA NG KAPE NA INSTANT (YUNG INSTANT NA 3 IN 1) TAPOS UMORDER KA NG......
HOT WATER!
JOLOGS!
JPCUISON'01

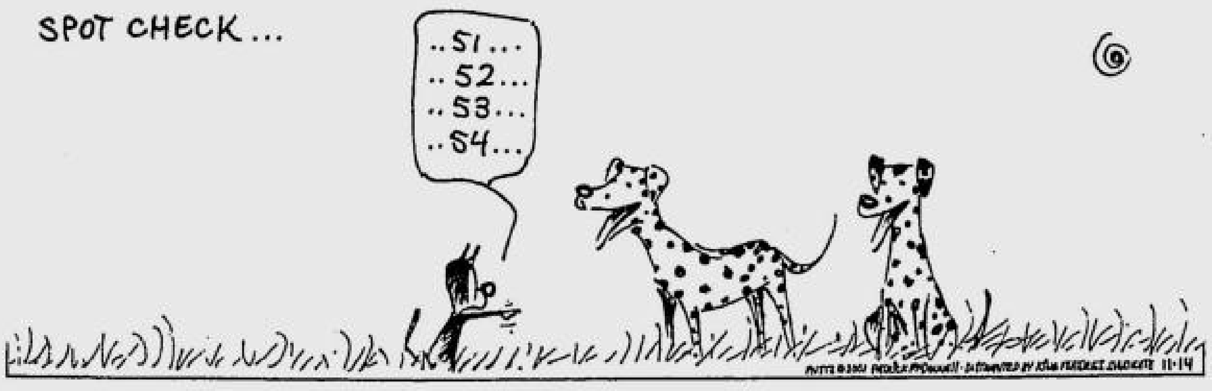
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


A COMPUTER? WHAT DO WE NEED A COMPUTER FOR?!
C'MON BEN!
THINK ABOUT IT! WE CAN USE IT TO PAY OUR BILLS, ORGANIZE OUR AFFAIRS...
WE COULD USE IT TO SURF THE NET!
10/20 SHELTON
WE ALREADY KNOW HOW ADEPT YOU ARE AT "SURFING"!
HMM?
CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK CLIK

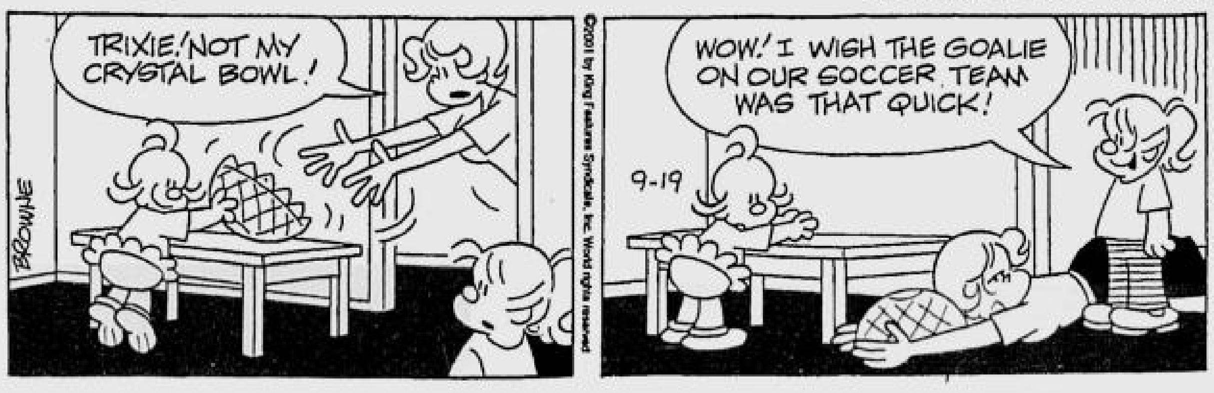
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SPOT CHECK...
..51...
..52...
..53...
..54...
11-14

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


TRIXIE! NOT MY CRYSTAL BOWL!
BROWNE
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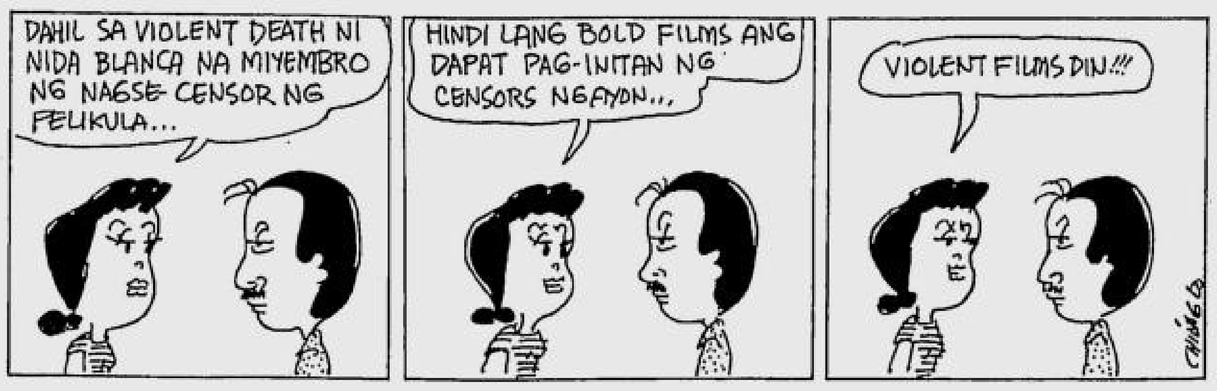
9-19
WOW! I WISH THE GOALIE ON OUR SOCCER TEAM WAS THAT QUICK!

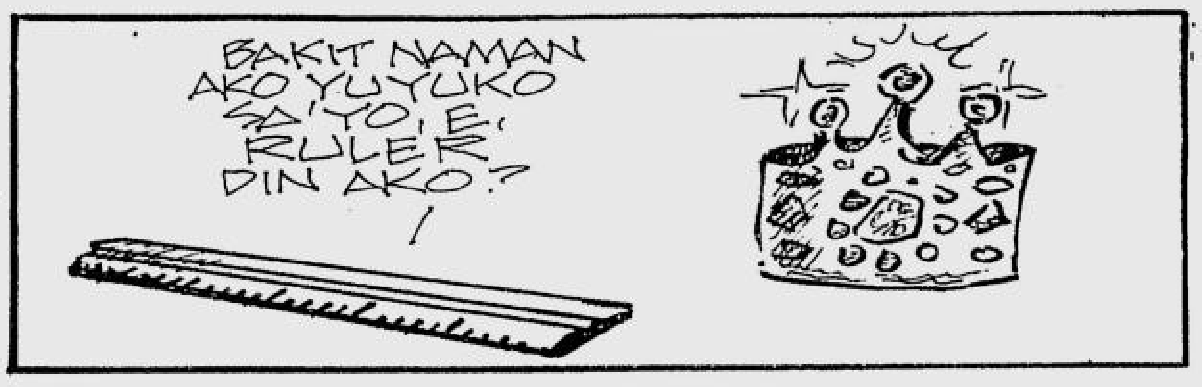
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DAHIL SA VIOLENT DEATH NI NIDA BLANCA NA MIYEMBRO NG NAGSE-CENSOR NG PELIKULA...
HINDI LANG BOLD FILMS ANG DAPAT PAG-INITAN NG CENSORS NGAYON...,
VIOLENT FILMS DIN!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT NAMAN AKO YUYUKO SA'YO, E, RULER DIN AKO?

Plain Jake plays dress-up

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

FOR MOST men, dressing up is a boring chore and so, plain is the way to go. Like there's no room for creativity or imagination and time shouldn't be wasted on planning what to wear.

Boring.

So many men wear baggy jeans and oversized shirts that they all end up looking like one another.

A little experimentation won't hurt, especially when one puts a personal touch in the way one dresses up. A stylish man isn't automatically gay, you know.

For all you plain Jakes out there, it's time to be adventurous, even if only for a short time. Here are some dress-up suggestions that won't hurt. And if they do, you can always revert to your trusted jeans and shirt uniform. These are not exactly GQ material, but they're pretty okay.

Stop being boring and experiment with your looks

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Geek chic

To start things off, a good pair of slacks is recommended. The black or blue pair you use for school is OK, but it's definitely better if you use something earthy like beige or cream or khaki. Pair it with a polo that's plain, striped or checkered. Avoid those with wild or funny prints because they're non-geeky, but then again, it's your choice. The footwear recommended is your trusted pair of black school shoes. You can also use a pair of brown loafers or those comfy slip-ons for a semi-geek look. Don't forget your eyeglasses, the thicker the rim, the geekier. You may also want to bring along a book or a filofax for extra geek effect.

Gothic cut

You must wear all black, okay. Top, bottom, underwear, footwear, socks. Then again, you can always add a little white, red or purple here and there. Don't forget your silver jewelry for accessory: an ankle pendant, some rings and some bracelets. You must also paint your nails black and apply some black eye makeup. For footwear, a nice pair of mean boots will do you good. A knee-high one is fun but a purple low-cut Doc Martens is okay. If you want to get into it, you can bring along a black backpack containing Karen Kunawicz's "On the Verge," a VCD copy of "The Crow," Poppy Z, Brite's "Wormwood" and a couple of CDs from the likes of Siouxsie and the Banshees.

Retro in the Metro

Although retro is so over now, you may want to revive it. The pants must be flared as in superflared. Have it tight and wear it high and use a thick belt, too. Don't be choosy with your footwear. For your top, a fit polo with crazy prints or a geometrical design will be fine. And don't forget, the louder the color, the better. For the finishing touch, put on some cool aviator shades and part your hair on the side.

Athletic chic

A nice pair of jogging pants will definitely give off that sporty look so go retrieve your PE uniform or that shiny pair of pants you had especially sewn for a cheering event. For your top, any Adidas shirt will do. Hop on to your rubber shoes. Go wear a cap and you're done. You can also bring along one of those Speedo gym bags for effect. For variety, you can opt for a jersey or one of those huge *sandos* from one of your *paliga*. Just don't pair it with jogging pants, okay?

Military sleek

When you pair your fatigues with a black or white top, you're safe. But if you're more of the adventurous type, you may want to wear something camouflage like a pair of flared pants or a tank top. You may also want to wear a beret for full military chic.

Glamrock fashion

For starters, tattered jeans is advisable. For tops, it must be sleeveless with something vulgar printed on it or, if you're the conservative type, any print will do (a flag, a bomb, a distorted face, whatever). If your top is studded with silver or stones, it's a welcome plus. To accessorize, wear wristbands, chunky rings and collar bands with silver spikes. Some makeup is nice. Don't forget to gel your hair up in spikes.

Ethnic mode

Anything *batik* works. But for full ethnic effect, however, wear a turban or a bonnet and accessorize with beads: beaded rings, beaded bracelets, beaded necklaces, etc. Also make sure that your bag and wallet are woven. Baguio's a great place for ethnic-inspired finds.

If you're naked and want someone to dress you up, e-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

---

Guy words . . .

(From page D3)

panis, *adjective*, easy to do
"*Kamusta 'yung* test *sa* Quantum Physics?" "*Panis, pare!*"

patok, *adjective*, a big hit; a huge success
"*Patok 'yung niluto mo,* dude!"

poknats, *noun*, a wound
"*Laki ng poknats mo, ah. Ano nangyari?*"

potsu, *adjective*, from the Filipino word "*supot*" meaning a flop
"*Potsu naman 'yung G.B. n'yo kagabi eh!*"

rambol, fight
"*Pare, may rambol sa kabilang kanto.*"

ratrat, *verb*, to consume; to finish
"Chicharon! *Ratratin na natin 'to!*"

recompaks, *noun*, from "*kumpare*" meaning a close male friend
"*Recompaks, pasabay naman, o.*"

repapips, *noun*, a variation of *recompaks*
"*Saan lakad natin, repapips?*"

resbak, *noun*, back-up; support
"*Pare, may away ako mamaya. Kailangan ko ng resbak.*"

riot: literally means a commotion, also used to describe something beautifully chaotic.
"Riot *ng* party *kagabi ah.*"

sablay, *adjective*, insufficient; incorrect; a failure
"*Sablay ata sagot ko sa* test *kanina!*"

sapal, *verb*, to be rejected
"*Sapal ako kay* Jenny. *Hindi raw niya ako* type."

sapul, *adjective*, right on target
"Jenny, *sapul 'yung hirit mo kay* Joey *ah.*"

sawsaw, *verb*, to join
"*Sawsaw ka sa amin mamaya.*"

session: get-together usually to smoke weed
"Dude, *kakabili ko lang ng isang bloke. Tara* session *tayo.*"

shoot, *adjective*, sure
"*Papasa ka ba sa* Calculus?" "*Oo, pare,* shoot *na yon!*"

splak, *noun*, a gimmick
"*Sawsaw ka sa splak namin at* nine o'clock, *ha?*"

squalog, *noun*, a combination of *jologs* and "squatter"
"*Baduy ng movie na 'yan ha. Squalog.*"

squatter, *adjective*, of bad taste; *jologs*
"Squatter *ng pinili mong kulay ha.*"

swabe, *adjective*, smooth
"*Swabe ng* Beamer *mo, tsong!*"

syota, girlfriend

tiklo, *adjective*, to fail tremendously; to crack under pressure
"*Tiklo ako sa panliligaw kay* Kathy."

tipar, *noun*, party
"*Punta ka ba sa tipar bukas?*"

tomguts, *adjective*, hungry
"*Kain na tayo. Tomguts na ako eh.*"

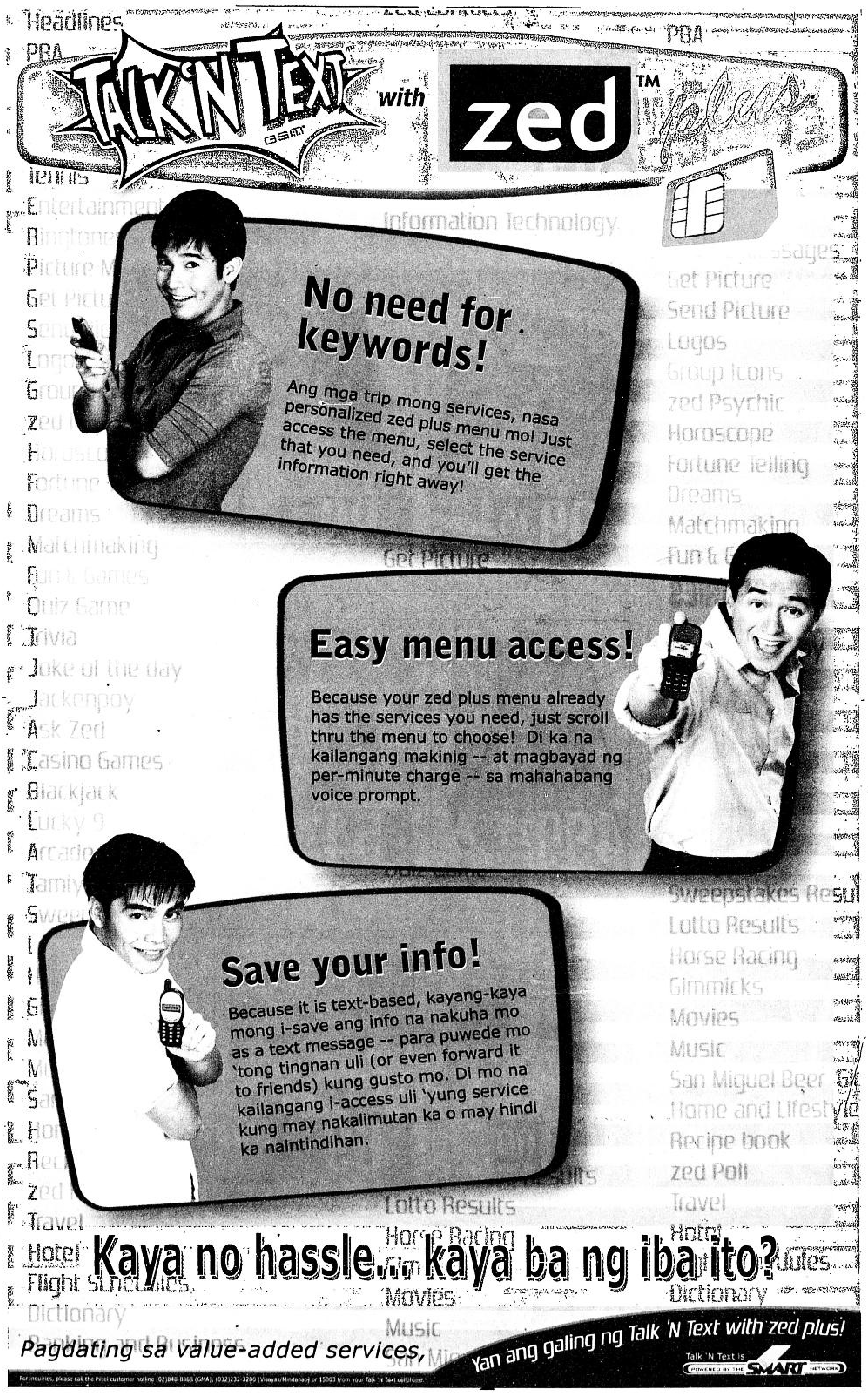
tsikot, *noun*, from the Filipino word *kotse*, meaning transportation
"*May dala ka bang tsikot? Pahiram naman* please."

wasabe, *verb*, to be unable to comment
"*Wasabe ako sa hirit mo,* dude!"

wheels, *noun*, transportation (normally a car)
"Sorry, can't lend you my wheels. I have a hot date tonight *eh.*"

So there you have it. From now on, be on guard for those words that you might here from guys! You might not just impress them, you might even hook up with them. Maybe now that we're a little bit more familiar with "guy lingo," we could understand them better and actually get along better with them. Don't they always say that when two people begin speaking the same language, chances are they'll be better friends? Or maybe more than friends...

With reports from David Agawin and Roi Palafox



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Because it is text-based, kayang-kaya mong i-save ang info na nakuha mo as a text message -- para puwede mo 'tong tingnan uli (or even forward it to friends) kung gusto mo. Di mo na kailangang i-access uli 'yung service kung may nakalimutan ka o may hindi ka naintindihan.

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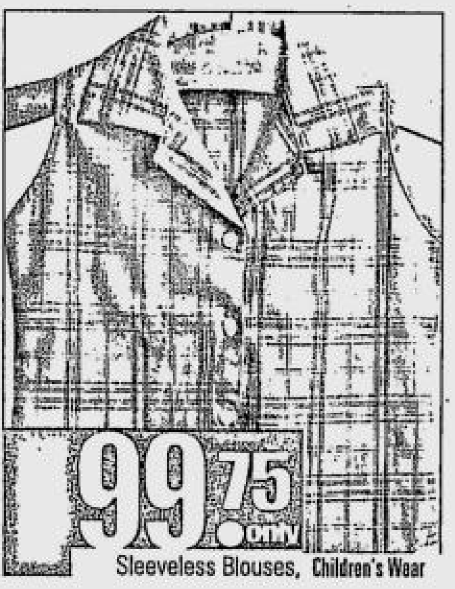
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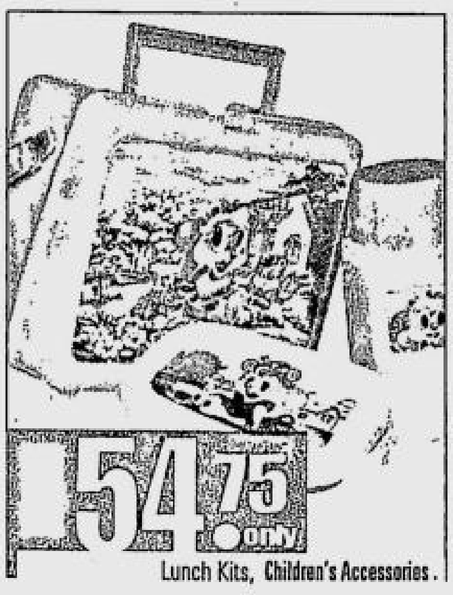
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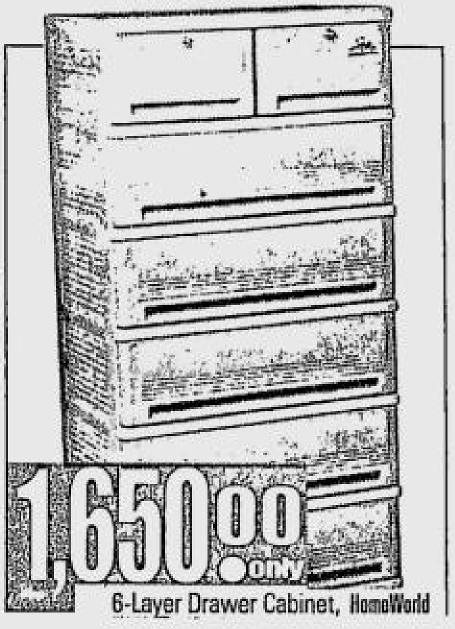
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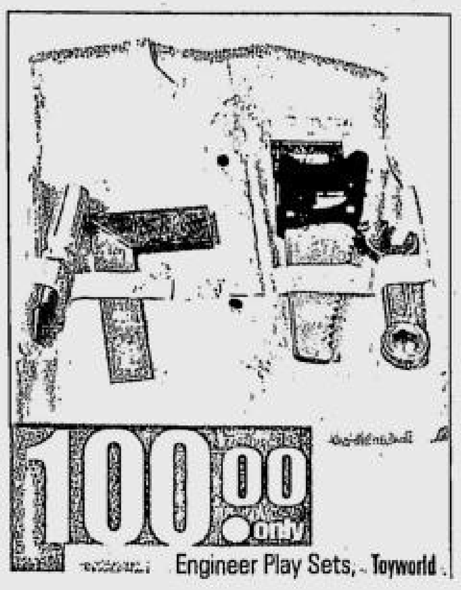
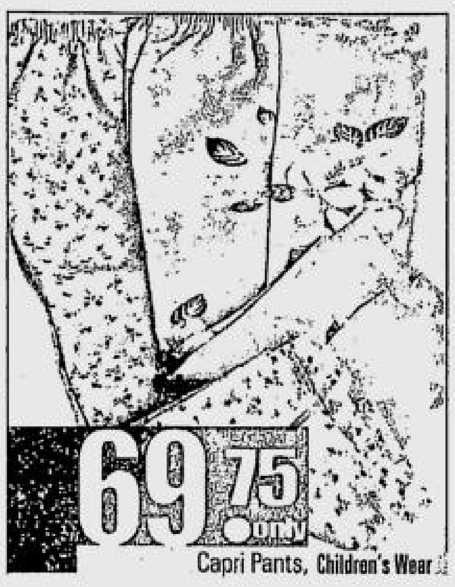

100.00 only
Engineer Play Sets, **Toyworld**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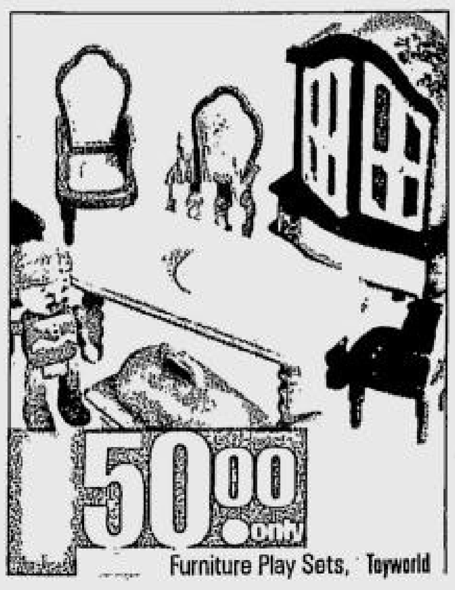
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5 Araw na lang gugulong ka na sa laki ng tuwa't papremyo sa
Wheel of Fortune ABC

5 Araw na lang pasikatan na ng mga pamilya sa ABC
Family Feud

2bU! spends a lazy afternoon pigging out and playing games with Itchyworms

A BAND NAMED AFTER KUYA GERMS

By Maui V. Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

WHAT makes Jugs Jugueta, Chino Singson, Kelvin Yu and Jazz Nicolas special? Well, when you come to think about it, not much.

They all get excited over a PlayStation II game, pick on each other endlessly, and pig out like there's no tomorrow. They like girls (although, Jazz points out, Kelvin doesn't) and collecting numbers at restaurants (the ones you get when waiting for your order). And they're in a band.

"*Nagkita-kita kami noon sa isang* Easter egg-hunting party. *Tapos si* Jugs *yung may pinakamaraming nahuli*," Jazz says. He's stuffing his mouth with popcorn left over from the shoot. "*Nahuli? Tumatakbo yung itlog*?" retorts Jugs.

"*Nainggit kami sa kanya.* So *nung sinabi niya na sumali kami sa banda, sabi namin 'sige,' marami ka namang itlog, eh*," continues Jazz. "And *mga kulay*," interjects Jugs. He shakes his head.

"*Ang labo*, Jazz!"

"The truth can be vague," retorts Jazz. Jugs continues telling the band's history. "*Tapos* after *nung nag*-meet *kami, nakilala namin si* Chino, *kasi* teacher *namin siya nung* high school and college—54 years old *na siya*."

"*Parang si* Mr. Feeney sa 'Boy Meets World.' *Sa lahat ng* levels, teacher *siya*," adds Jazz. "*Ang* difference *lang*, Filipino '*to*," says Kelvin. Um, right.

The band was actually formed when they were in the Ateneo Musicians School, around 1997. Chino became a new member after their bassist was booted out of the band (Kelvin took over bass). It was for a school songwriting contest, "*Himagsikan*." "*Sabi namin, 'Ang kinis ng balat! Kunin natin siya!*'" Kelvin recalls. Chino simply puts it this way: "*Na*-in-love *sila sa akin*. After that, *sabi nila*, '*Sali ka na sa* band, *kasi* we love you.'"

"And *maraming itlog si* Jugs," Jazz says.

"*Na may kulay. Na tumatakbo*," Jugs points out.

Releasing their debut album, "Little Monsters Under Your Bed," the band has come up with ear-friendly singles like "Happy Birthday," "Happy House" (which landed on NU 107's "In the Raw" album) and the latest release, "*Antipara*."

They describe their music as "newfangled, flippity-pop-tick-tock rock or Yum Yum Pop." Their album has 21 tracks that with melodies that get stuck in your head. No wonder—they credit Matthew Sweet, The Beatles, Sting, Bob Marley, Weezer and Satriani as some of their influences.

2bU! spent an afternoon with the band at Kelvin's place to find out the origin of their name, historical figures and what Jazz thinks is the worst thing a girl could do to him.

Why Itchyworms?

Kelvin: *Kailangan i*-segment *ang* word *na 'yon. Kailangan kasi i*-dissect *muna. Kasi lahat kami lumaki sa* "That's Entertainment." *Naging* influ

A BAND/p.E2

ANNOUNCEMENT
3rd POST GRADUATE COURSE
PHIL. ACADEMY OF AESTHETIC SURGERY

1. Nov. 24, 2001 (Saturday) - SHANGRILA EDSA PLAZA HOTEL
Masters of Ceremonies .... - ROBERTO CUERPO, M.D.
- PATRICK S. DE LEON, M.D.

7:30 am	Registration	
8:00-9:00 am	Opening Ceremonies	
	National Anthem	- MARMI GORION, M.D.
	Welcome Address	- PORFIRIO P. TICA, M.D. (PAAS President)

SESSION I - MODERATOR - ROBERTO CUERPO, M.D.

9:00-9:20am	NASAL IMPLANT SHAPING	- PATRICK S. DE LEON, M.D
9:20-9:40am	SURGICAL ANATOMY OF THE UPPER & LOWER LIDS	- RUFINO JOSE R. AGOBA, M.D.
9:40-10:00am	BLEPHAROPLASTY	- ROMEO V. BATO, M.D.
10:00-10:20am	OPEN FORUM	
10:20-10:40am	COFFEE BREAK	

SESSION II - MODERATOR - BENJAMIN TAN - ALONZO, M.D.

10:40-11:00am	LIP REDUCTION	- GEORGE D. FIRMALINO, M.D.
11:00-11:20am	FACELIFT (MODIFIED S-LIFT)	- PORFIRIO P. TICA, M.D.
11:20-11:40am	AUGMENTATION RHINOPLASTY	- BIENVENIDO A. FIGUEROA, M.D.
11:40-12:00nn	OPEN FORUM	
12NN-1:00pm	Lunch Break with special lecture by the guest speaker DR. BU CASTRO, MEDICO LEGAL ASPECT OF COSMETIC SURGERY	

SESSION III - MODERATOR - LEONARDO S. ABOGADO, M.D.

1:00-1:20pm	BREAST AUGMENTATION	- RICARDO I. NAVOA JR.,M.D.
1:20-1:40pm	VAGINOPLASTY	- NOEL E. RAYMUNDO, M.D.
1:40-2:00pm	LIPOSUCTION & FAT INJECTION	- JAIME ANTHONY ARZADON, M.D.
2:00-2:20pm	OPEN FORUM	
2:20-2:40pm	COFFEE BREAK	

SESSION IV - MODERATOR - RICARDO I. NAVOA JR.,M.D.

2:40-3:00pm	ABDOMINOPLASTY	- ELVIS M. VERZO, M.D.
3:00-3:20pm	SCLEROTHERAPY & PHLEBECTOMY	- LEONARDO S. ABOGADO, M.D.
3:20-3:40pm	PENILE ENLARGEMENT & LENGTHENING.	- BENJAMIN TAN ALONZO, M.D.
3:40-4:00pm	CHIN AUGMENTATION	- EDUARDO YAP
4:00-4:20- pm	OPEN FORUM	
4:20-5:00 pm	SOCIALS	

2. November 25, 2001(Sunday) (7:00 am -5:00 pm) - LIVE SURGICAL DEMONSTRATION
QUEZON CITY MEDICAL CENTER
Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City
Registration Fee P 7,500

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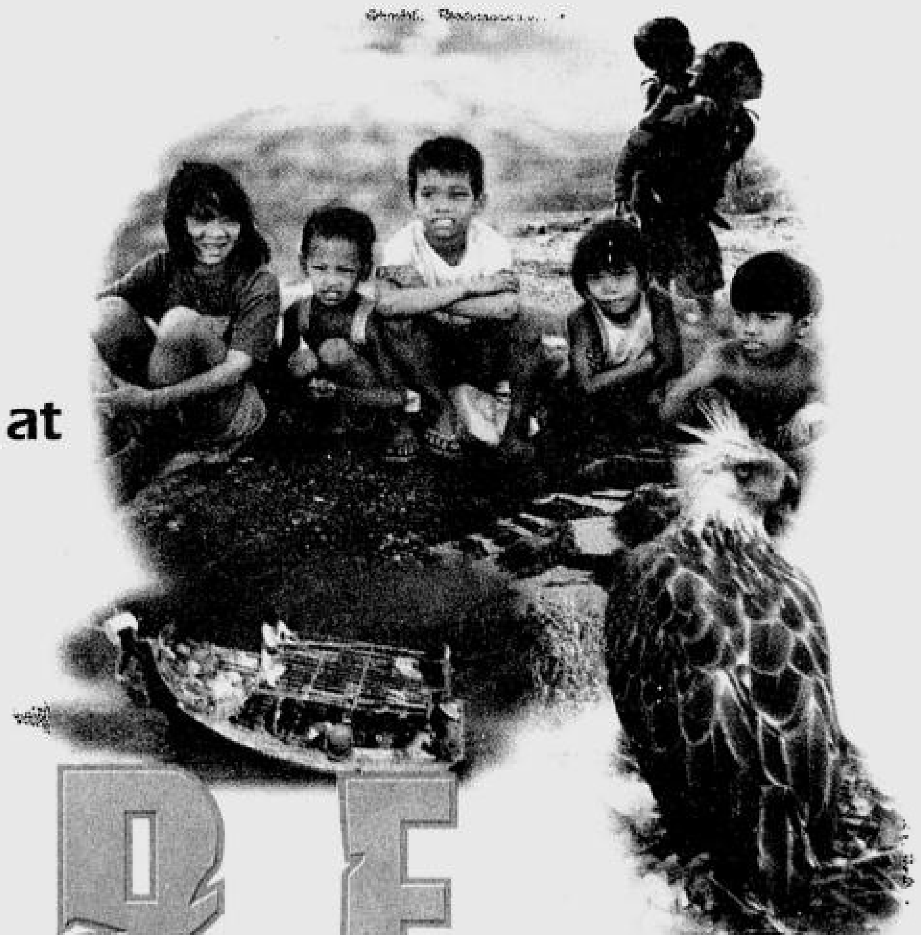

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2nd Quarterly Draw
- 1st Prize - One (1) Toyota Revo - DLX
- 2nd Prize - One (1) Sony Wega 73.66cm (29") TV
- 3rd Prize - Palm Pilot M505
- Consolation - Forty (40) Gift Checks from 1st e-Bank @ P1,000.00 (10 per region)

3rd Quarterly Draw
- 1st Prize - IBM ThinkPad i Series
- 2nd Prize - Nokia 8850 Mobile Phone with SIM Card
- 3rd Prize - Palm Pilot M505
- Consolation - Forty (40) Gift Checks from 1st e-Bank @ P1,000.00 (10 per region)

1st Prize 2nd Quarter Draw Toyota Revo-DLX

1st Prize Grand Draw Toyota Revo-SR

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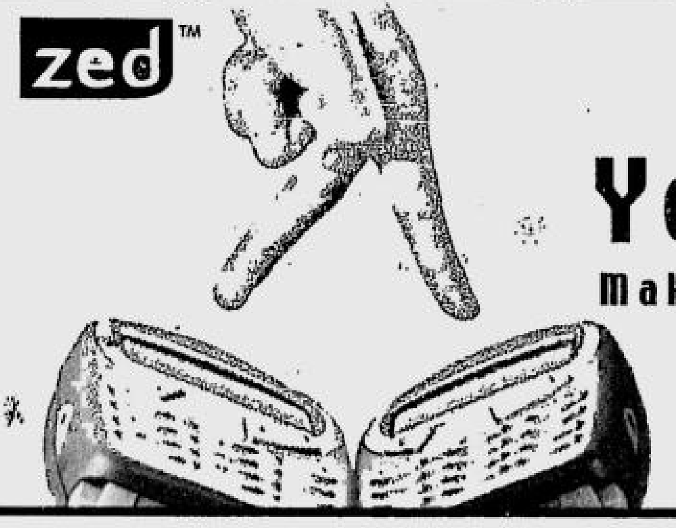

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A BAND NAMED AFTER KUYA GERMS

JAZZ Nicolas

(From page E1)

ential *part ng buhay namin si* Kuya Germs. With that in mind, *na kailangan makahanap kami ng* name that rhymes with "germs." So "worms." *Pero, kulang ang* "worms," *eh. Eh si* Kuya Germs, *isa lang siya, eh.* There can only be one Kuya Germs. So we were looking for a word that rhymes with one.

Chino: *Eh, di ba* "one" in Japanese is "*ichi*"?

Kelvin: Yeah, *kaya* Itchyworms. Because there is only one *Kuya* Germs.

Were your parents always supportive of you being in a band?

Kelvin: *Pag*-late *lang umuwi.*

Where did you first play?

Kelvin: First gig *namin sa* Ateneo, *sa* "Himigsikan" contest. *Si* Chino *hindi pa* part *ng* band *noon. Kasi iba yung* bassist *namin* before, guitarist *ako* before. *Tapos sinipa ni* Jazz *yung* bassist.

Jazz: *Hindi ko sinipa yon.*

Jugs: *Tapos yung* next gig *namin* contest *din. Kalaban namin* Ciudad.

Jazz: *Natakot kami sa kanila. Sobrang naka-ka*-intimidate, *ang gaganda ng* songs *nila.*

Kelvin: *Meron pa silang* choreography…

Do you all write songs?

Kelvin: Main songwriters *si* Jazz at *si* Jugs.

Chino: *Kami taga-kain lang. Taga-kain ng* barbecue…

Kelvin: Usually *kasi may* songs *na sila, at yung pinaka*-raw form *ng* songs, *tapos ibibigay sa amin, tapos yung* arranging process *kaming lahat na.*

Did you help in producing the album?

Chino: Actually the producers, Buddy and Sancho, they gave us a freehand *sa* songs that we wanted to get.

Kelvin: *Tapos kunwari kung gusto namin yung* guitars *na may* certain sound, *sasabihin namin sa kanila, tapos susubukan nilang i*-work out.

Jazz: *Tapos minsan, sasabihin nila… hindi puwede.*

Do you see yourselves producing the second album?

Kelvin: Co-produce *siguro.*

KELVIN Yu

Chino: *Si* Jazz actually *may maraming* experience *sa* studio, and most coordinated *sa aming lahat,* so he could probably co-produce. *Pwede din,* "Produced by Sancho, Buddy and Itchyworms."

Jazz: *Kasi kailangan din namin ng pera, eh. Balita kasi namin meron daw* producers' fee. So *kailangan namin maka*-take-part in that.

What's with the monster that comes with the album?

Chino: Actually *pan de sal yon na* stuffed toy. *Meron kaming* fictional character *na inimbeto namin ni* Jugs. *Pangalan niya* Sphergel.

Jazz: Actually *galing siya sa* movie *na* "Revenge of the Sphergels." *Meron dun pan de sal nasa loob yung* monster, *na parang dun sila galing.* So *parang kung hindi niyo napanood yung* movie *na yon, di ninyo mage*-get.

Kelvin: I think *na*-release *na siya sa* DVD, *eh. Pero* Region 7 *yata*…

How do you write songs?

Kelvin: *Si* Jazz *yata kailangan tulog siya.*

Jugs: *Naghuhugas muna ako ng* alcohol. *Tapos* after that, *naliligo ako ng* iced tea. *Doon ko talaga nakukuha yung* inspiration. *Sa* iced tea.

Jazz: *Ako hindi naman* complicated. *Kailangan ko lang ng isang balde ng dugo. Tapos tabo-tabo lang.*

What's the best gig you've had so far?

Kelvin: *Masaya yung tumugtog kami sa* Rock Awards two years ago. That time *wala pa yung* album, so *na disappoint kami kasi wala pang nag-sa*-sign *sa amin non.* So *maganda na* we were given a new perspective. *Tapos* the next day *lungkot na naman kami.* (Laughs)

Chino: We're not playing this year, *pero* nominated *kami sa* Best New Artist.

Kelvin: *Yung* album launch!

Jazz: *Sa* hotel! *Wala pa si* Chino *non! Yung* audience *namin puro Kano. Tapos sumasayaw silang lahat. Kahit na pangit yung tugtog, sumasayaw pa rin silang lahat. Di ba yung mga Pinoy upo lang, tapos tayo lang sila pag*-"Let's Groove" *na*? (Laughs)

CHINO Singson

Kelvin: *Maganda tumugtog* for them, *kasi kahit na anong* beat, *sasayaw sila. Tapos biglang habang tutugtog kami, may naglaplapan na* couple. *Tapos, pagkatapos non, sa sunod na banda, nasa sahig na sila. Yun na pinapanood ng mga tao.*

Jazz: *Tapos tinakpan na lang sila ng* tablecloth.

Worst gig?

Jazz: *You.*

Kelvin: *Kasi hindi kami tinakpan ng* tablecloth. *May isang gig na nag*-walk-out *si* Chino. *Ni*-reggae *namin isang kanta, tapos nag*-walk-out *na siya.*

Chino: *Hindi yun yon. Di ba ang panget na ng* sound system *non?* So *ayon… sa tingin ko, binaboy nyo.*

Kelvin: *Sa tingin mo, eh sa tingin ni* Hitler *tama siya. Kino*-compare *ko lang ikaw sa mga* historical figures.

Jazz: *Di kino*-compare—*siya si* Hitler!

Jugs: *Isa lang itlog mo?*

Chino: *Oo. Makulay pa, at tumatakbo.*

Jugs: *Kinuha ko yung iba, eh!* (Laughs)

If you could be in any boy band, what would it be?

Kelvin: *Ako gusto ko* Boyzone. *Kasi* type *ko yung si* Gary Barlow… *anong pangalan niya? Yung* blonde? Si Ronan Keating.

Chino: *Ako* 'N Sync. *Gusto ko ng* pop.

Jazz: *Ako* Jackson Five.

Kelvin: *Kasi gusto mo maging negro?*

Jazz: *Tingnan mo, mga* boy bands *ngayon, lahat* white, *tapos yung* songs *nila, ano*? R&B! *Gusto nilang maging negro na dati, nagpi*-pick *lang ng* cotton! *Ngayon, gusto na nila maging* cotton pickers *na rin!*

Chino: Actually… *eh bakit si* Michael Jackson *naging puti?*

What do you look for in a girl?

Jugs: Secret!

Jazz: *Basta hindi siya lalake.*

Jugs: *Mga chinita, mga* petite. *Medyo maliit.* Actually *di niya kailangan maging chinita, basta maganda yung* eyes.

Chino: *Magaling magluto.*

Kelvin: *Ako, magaling magluto.*

Chino: *Babae tanong, eh.*

Kelvin: *Ako, pwede akong maging babae para sa 'yo.*

Chino: *Kailangan* intelligent, witty.

Kelvin: *Sa akin naman, kailangan… nasa* Canada. (Laughter) *Simple lang naman, eh.* Above 45, 50 years old. *Mayaman. May kotse. Malapit nang mamatay.* (Laughs) *Ang sama! Gusto ko* sugar mommy. *Yung* very understanding.

Chino: *Si* Jazz *nga pala, mahilig sa mga* little monsters.

Kelvin: *Dapat* understanding. *Na mayaman. Magaling magluto… may pera.* (Laughs)

Sweetest thing you've done for a girl?

Jugs: Write a song. *Nagawa ko na. Nasa* album.

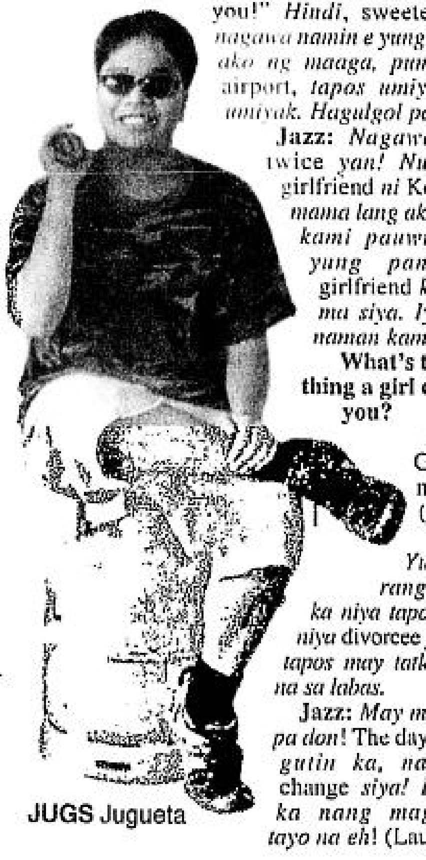
Jazz: *Ako din.* Song. *Nasa album din.*

Chino: Sweetest thing? Took her out on a picnic. *Bumili kami ng* pizza *sa* Shakey's, *tapos bumili kami ng* soft drinks *sa* Shoppesville, *tapos nag*-picnic *kami sa* football field *ng isang* school.

Kelvin: *Ako basta di mabugbog ng tatlong araw,* okay *na, eh.*

Jazz: *Bakit tatlong araw?*

Kelvin: *Tatlo para* "I love you!" *Hindi,* sweetest thing *nagawa namin e yung nagising ako ng maaga, pumunta ng* airport, *tapos umiyak nang umiyak. Hagulgol pauwi.*



JUGS Jugueta

Jazz: *Nagawa namin* twice *yan! Nung una,* girlfriend *ni* Kelvin, *sumama lang ako. Iyakan kami pauwi. Tapos yung pangalawa,* girlfriend *ko, sumama siya. Iyakan na naman kami!*

What's the worst thing a girl can do to you?

Kelvin: Go to Canada. (Laughs)

Chino: *Yung parang sinagot ka niya tapos sabihin niya* divorcee *pala siya, tapos may tatlong anak na sa labas.*

Jazz: *May mas* worse *pa don!* The day after *sagutin ka, nagpa*-sex change *siya! Eh, wala ka nang magagawa, tayo na eh!* (Laughter)

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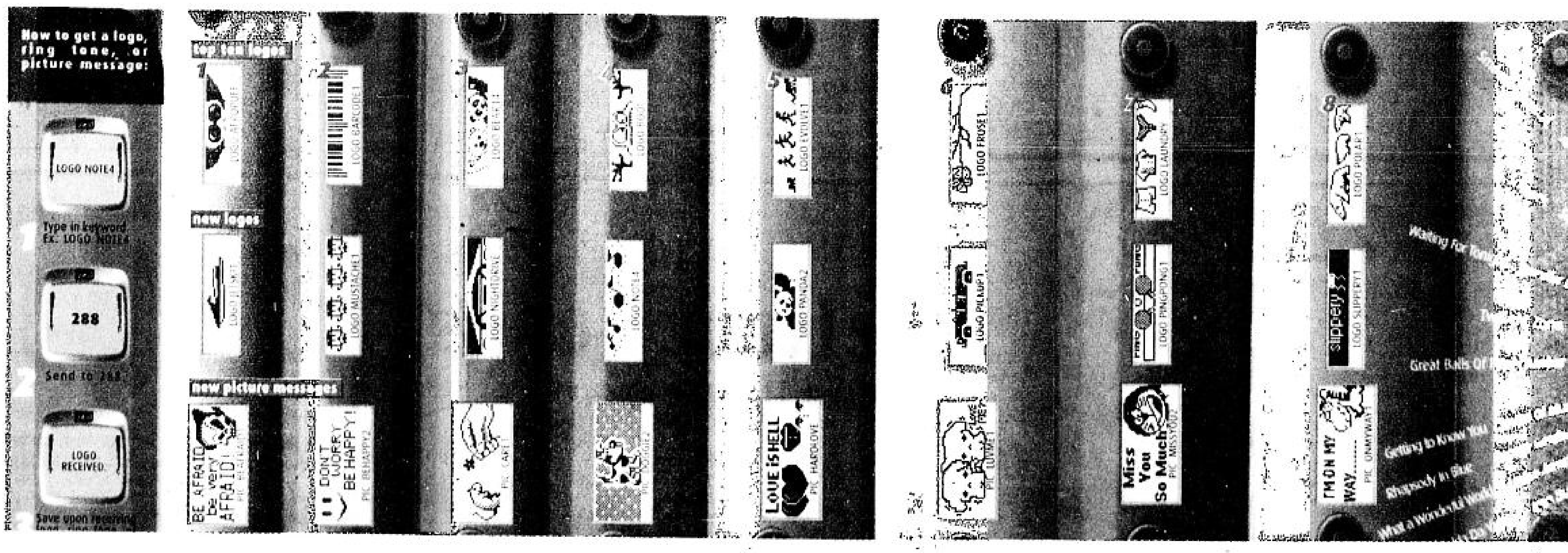

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Poetry as pop in creative writing forum

POET and writer Ramil Gulle will talk about "Poetry as Pop" today at 3 p.m. at the Center for Creative Writing and Studies (CCWS) of the University of Santo Tomas, St. Raymund's (AB-Commerce) Building, UST campus, España, Manila.

A Palanca-award-winning poet, junior writing associate of UST and writer of the Today newspaper, Gulle will tackle the interaction between poetry and popular culture in an increasingly multimedia, extra-textual world. The lecture is part of the CCWS Associate Lecture Series.

One of the reactors will be Lourd de Veyra, also an award-winning poet and essayist, UST junior writing associate, leader of the band Radioactive Sago Project and host of "Halo-Halo" on the cable channel Studio 23 Myx.

The forum is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 731-3101, local 8281.

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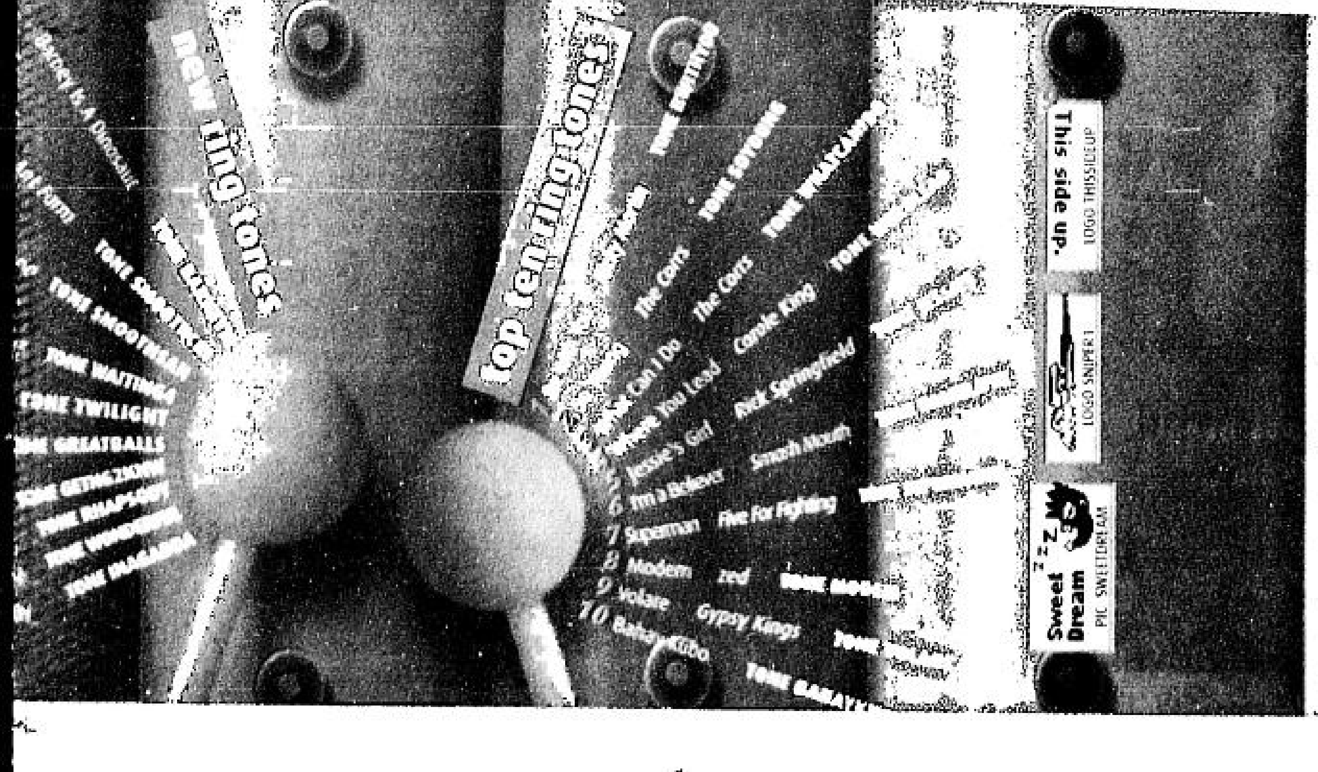

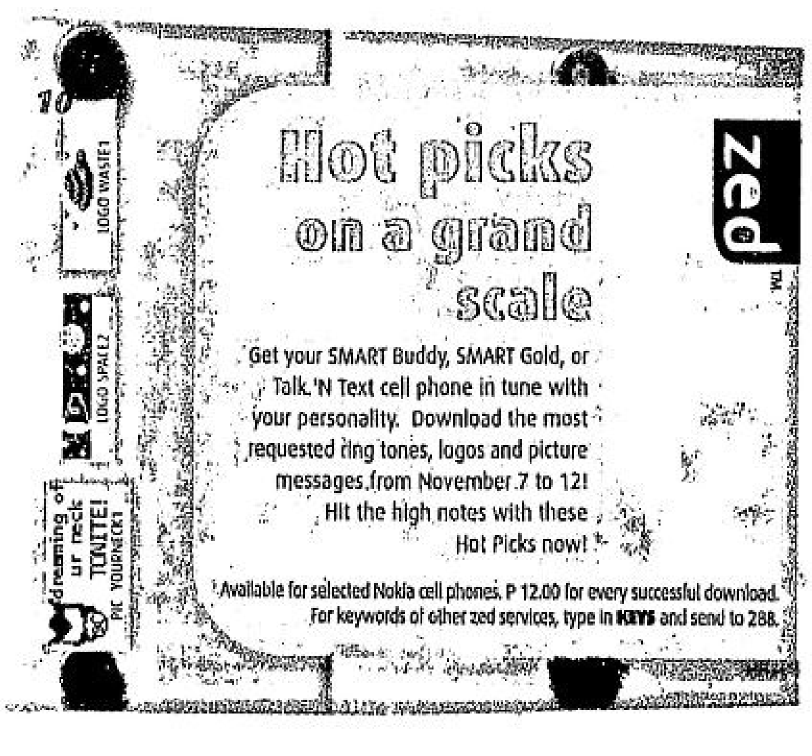
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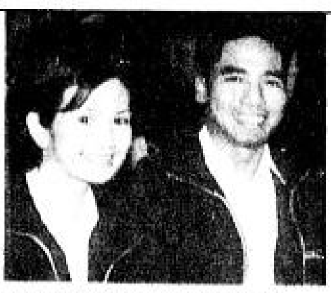

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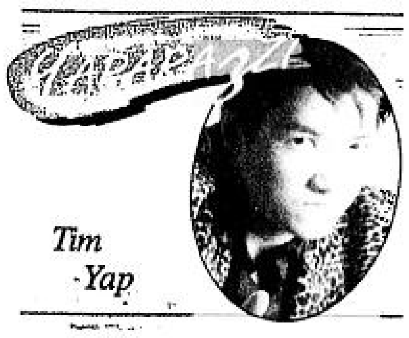

Tim Yap

"YIKES! What kind of a mammoth crowd is this?" said my hard-nosed friend as we went through the barricades set up in the streets of QC. No, this was not another rally in an obscure part of the world. The ever-increasing throng [illegible] revelers gathered for the country's most beloved beer and grub fair, the San Miguel Beer Oktoberfest 2001 and its shebang of parties.

October went by so quickly, but I must say, the most memorable event last month, aside from Ayala Center's Halloween party at Glorietta, was the month-long SMB Oktoberfest's "Chowtime Showtime Caravan," a sound-, fun- and food-tripping series held all over our country. From the grand kick-off party at Libis to the celebration in Iloilo and the Masskara Festival in Bacolod, it was a month of extreme indulgence and intimate intoxication.

PARADE of celebs at the fest

Though I don't really frequent the Tomas Morato area too much, I could not say no to the promise of a good party. I don't really care how people look when I attend these events—I look for the vibe. And boy, what a vibe! The whole center-street was lined with tables and booths almost reaching the front of the stage. Imagine the distance of walking through Megamall—that was how long the tables were set up, one giant nocturnal food picnic splashed with beer bottles happily clenched by partyphiles with smiling faces. Reminds me of this festival in Paris where the aim was to have the longest table set-up in the world for the most festive outdoor meal ever.

Simultaneous parties were being held that night, also for the SMB Oktoberfest shebang. On the QC party strip, San Miguel's Marco Nieto was traipsing along the VIP area backstage where he clenched his San Miguel while enjoying the night's festivities. My uppity-uppity friend, after a few bottles, was starting to become friendly, eyeing VJ **Belinda Panelo** as she was covering the event, and the PMAP models who dropped by the festivities.

Pinoy bonding

At the Maria Orosa strip, VJ **Sarah Meier** was holding fort while the audience roared. My friend **Tina Tinio** was present at the SMB Malate event that was attended by yuppies from all walks of life. Beer indeed is the timeless Pinoy bonding quotient. Music and food being the great supporting characters.

Weeks before, I also attended the San Miguel-sponsored Mandarin Oriental's Oktoberfest celebration at the NBC Tent at the Fort. Expats hobnobbed with locals as savvy servers in "gamsbarthut" felt hats poured San Miguel endlessly on giant mugs—it gave the term "bottomless booze" a new meaning. Bavarian bands provided the music as urban beer lovers partied, toasted and swayed, led by Mandarin Oriental GM **Helmut Gaisberger** and the SMB caravan team in full force. "It is evident that the appeal of the festive spirit of the Oktoberfest is universal," said the jolly GM.

Wherever I went, the SMB logo was ubiquitous. I don't know if it's because of the sheer number of times I see its logo or San Miguel is really a Pinoy cultural icon. Some eccentric artist should do a play on this particular Pinoy image and do for SMB what **Andy Warhol** did for Campbell's soup. Or come up with a book on its history and how it translates to today's generation—something like what Bench's book, "Pinoy Pop." What about including an artfest in next year's celebrations?

Whatever it is, next year is just a blink away. To this, my happily tipsy hard-nosed friend, said, "Had a great time at the Oktoberfest—let me know when the next one is!" I grabbed another SMB bottle and hurled it his way.

Christmas run-up

Yup, the Yuletide bells are starting to ring. SMB hosts a gathering tonight at Il Ponticello to celebrate the start of the season. It will also launch its latest commercial, which as we all know, is always much awaited.

Another addition in the magazine circuit, You magazine, with its new executive editor **Maan Ilustre**, hosts a party tonight at Po Na Na in Libis. Tomorrow, it's the book launch of "The Philippine Forest" by **Karla Delgado** with photos by **Neal Oshima**. By 6:30, Colleciones New York launches **Carlo Evaristo** as its latest designer. Also on Thursday, it's "Unplugged Acoustic" night at Friends in the Square featuring **Nino Alejandro**.

This Friday, superstar DJ **Paul Van Dyke** turns the tables at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater while Saturday is the big night when we find out who the next MTV VJ will be in this year's VJ Hunt! It happens at the Megastrip. Ten VJ finalists are vying for the much-coveted VJ slot.

Next week, all roads lead to Cebu, where the "Ad Congress" will take place. There, for sure, another "mammoth crowd" will surely party till the break of the Southern dawn. Let's raise our beer bottles to that!

SMB's Lorie Ann Lisbona, Jogee Cruz, Sonny Medalla, Rafael Carpio and Bobet Briones

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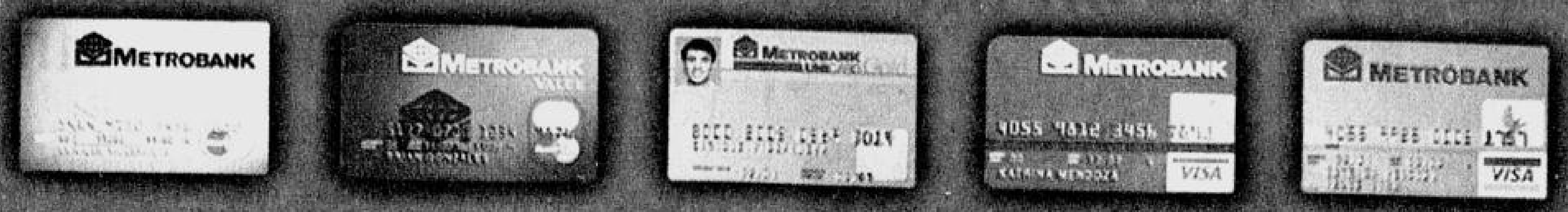

SHOP AT THE BIGGEST METROBANK CREDIT CARDS BAZAAR EVER!

IT'S ALWAYS more convenient to shop at a big bazaar hosted by big reputable companies. You are assured of the quality of products on sale and the security is always better.

One major bazaar scheduled to happen soon is the Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City, which offers one-stop shopping under one roof. This is the biggest credit card shopping event yet with close to a hundred participating merchants. The wide variety of products to be sold during the bazaar include great tasting food and delicacies; imported men's, ladies' and children's clothes, undergarments and accessories; toys; export-quality home furnishings and décor items, branded computers and other appliances; quality sporting equipment and musical instruments; a wide selection of books and stationery items; car accessories; value-for-money travel packages; and other gift and novelty items.

With this vast range of products for sale at discounted prices of up to 75 percent, the bazaar allows shoppers to buy gifts for everyone in their Christmas shopping list in one spree.

Purchases in the bazaar will be paid through any Metrobank credit card—Unicard, Metrobank Visa or Metrobank Mastercard—or through shopping cards, which may be bought in the bazaar venue.

Aside from this, Metrobank credit card holders can also enjoy a special installment payment scheme of up to 12 months for all purchases at a low interest rate of 1.5 percent per month.

As an added treat, the Metrobank Group is also offering free services such as blood pressure reading, blood typing and sugar counting courtesy of the Manila Doctors' Hospital; nine-point check up which may be availed at Toyota Manila Bay, Toyota Cubao or Toyota Marikina; and personal accident insurance from Philippine AXA Life.

The Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City will be held at the newly constructed Le Pavillon, a 1,440-square meter air-conditioned tent made of imported tarpaulin with an enclosed area capacity of up to 1,400 people. The surrounding area provides ample parking spaces. Le Pavillon is located at the Metropolitan Park, Edsa Extension corner Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City (in front of the Hyatt Hotel) on Nov. 16, 17 and 18. Shopping hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Bazaar Shopping 101

WITH Christmas just a few weeks away, a lot of us are already on the lookout for the perfect gifts to give our loved ones. A few years ago, bazaars have begun to gain popularity among shoppers for they offer products we normally don't find in the malls. This year, many bazaars have been organized by different groups to be held in venues all over Metro Manila.

Although it is a fact that Christmas shopping comes with a lot of hassles, there are ways to minimize being a victim of these. Here are some tips to help you make the most out of your Christmas bazaar shopping.

1. Collect and select

Since November is the month of bazaars, start scanning the newspaper. Make note of the scheduled bazaars and the distinctive features of each. Choose the bazaar events that will work best for you based on items to be sold, schedule and venue.

2. It's better to list than to miss

Your Christmas gift list is your best weapon against going over your budget. Modify your list to include the budget allotted for each gift, the person's size, and your idea of what item to give. To make sure you don't miss anyone you intend to buy a gift for, write down all of this information on a piece of paper or cardboard small enough to fit your wallet so that you always have the list with you.

3. The earlier the better

Nothing beats an early start. Planning ahead allows you time to review your list, add on to it, and save enough money for your actual shopping spree.

Make sure you are fully rested the night before your shopping day so you can wake up early and have enough energy to accomplish the task.

4. Be in full battle gear

When going to a bazaar, always wear comfortable if not loose clothes. This way, you can move freely, and it is easier to fit clothes for yourself. However, your clothes shouldn't be sloppy for who knows who you might run into in the bazaar.

5. Charge

Since security is always a concern anywhere there are shoppers, avoid bringing too much cash. As much as possible, utilize your credit cards for your shopping.

If you don't have any credit card yet, this could be the best time to apply for one. Nowadays, credit card companies are offering free annual fees and a lot of free gift items. Just take note of all your charges and your cut-off date so that you don't overcharge.

MESSAGE

UNIBANCARD Corporation is pleased to hold an advance Christmas treat for its cardholders and merchant partners as well as for the clients of the Metrobank Group of Companies. The Christmas Shopping City is a pre-Christmas bazaar with just about everything you'd ever need this holiday season with a lot more fun, excitement and value-for-money shopping.

We, in the Metrobank family, worked hard to give you the best for this event—a brand new tent with a huge parking area, a wide yet unique selection of merchandise that went through meticulous screening, discounts and perks from participating concessionaires and Metrobank subsidiaries, plus an attractive installment scheme to make your credit card purchases easier to manage.

Come and enjoy a cashless shopping experience through the Metrobank Credit Cards. For those who still do not have our credit cards, Shopping Cards are available inside the bazaar.

See you at the Christmas Shopping City.

Cynthia R. Valenzuela
CYNTHIA R. VALENZUELA
President
Unibancard Corporation

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Merchants see golden opportunity at shopping city

"THIS EARLY Christmas treat is really for the shoppers. And that is why Crossings Department Store is here. The Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City is just like a huge department store with practically everything that you'll ever need under one roof. Big discounts, credit card convenience and low interest installment options ... these are all very appropriate for the times. The Metrobank Credit Cards will surely make this Christmas a lot more merrier for all of us."

–Jean de Guzman, Crossings Department Store

"This is the first time Noritake is ever joining a Christmas Bazaar which is why we are bringing in a good mix of top of the line Noritake products together with the very popular "bodega" items all at great prices. We believe this is a good way of reaching out to the numerous public who can't really go all the way to our bodega in Marikina.

– Ma. Carmelita L. Ramota, Noritake

"We have chosen the Metrobank Shopping City as the venue to do a pre-launch of our Harrods line of eyewear which we are carrying exclusively in the Philippines. Of course, we will have all the other brands and products of Executive Optical featured in the bazaar, with offers of big value and discounts. That is what the Metrobank Credit Cards Bazaar is all about anyway."

– Joanne Yap, Executive Optical

"I have joined a lot of international jewelry fairs and exhibits and to my mind, the Metrobank Christmas Shopping City concept is one of a kind. I wouldn't miss it. I have been banking with Global Bank for quite some time now and being able to open up to the rest of the Metrobank Group of Companies and its clientele by means of the Credit Cards Bazaar is a great opportunity. God Bless us all!"

– Rodolfo Rendiza, Lili Jewelry

"We look forward to the Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City not only as a merchant concessionaire wanting to showcase our premium line of children's apparel. We are also very excited shoppers waiting for our own prize catch in the bazaar. We believe that Mary Mike's merchandise at its special prices will be a very good buy for most of the bazaar shoppers.

– Nancy Tan and Josie Yao, Mary Mike

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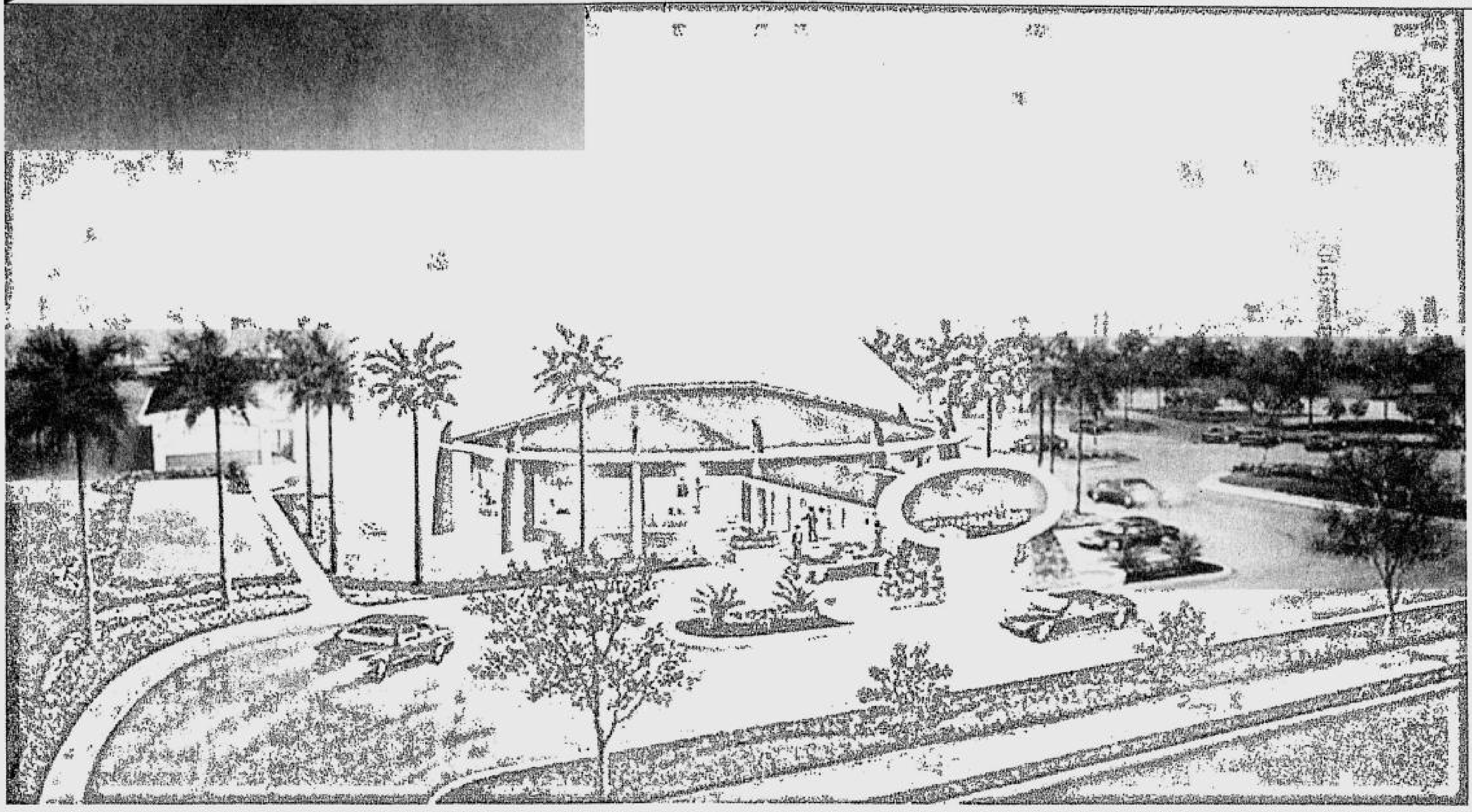

Le Pavillon is a fully air-conditioned 1,440 sqm tent that's going to play host to some of Metro Manila's hottest engagements. During the Bazaar, Via Maré will put up its outdoor café to serve a delectable line-up of Filipino favorites

Le Pavillon makes its official debut this Christmas

BY LUI RUFINO

YOU won't believe what's going on at the Metropolitan Park! A brand new tent is going up that promises to be THE events venue for the Metropolis. Le Pavillon (which means "the tent" for us non-French speaking folks) is a versatile, fully air-conditioned 1,440 sqm tent that's going to play host to some of Metro Manila's hottest engagements.

If you've driven down scenic Roxas Boulevard, then chances are you've already seen the colossal, majestic white structure on the 40-hectare Metropolitan Park. Le Pavillon is a permanent structure borne from a marriage of high tensile steel and heat resistant tarpaulin. The steel skeleton is engineered to withstand the whipping winds of Manila Bay, while the combination of heatproof skin and air-conditioned interior keep all occupants comfortably cool and cozy under the tropical sun.

Whether you happen to be the event sponsor or the event spectator, you are sure to make the most out of your engagements with Le Pavillon's host of modern facilities. Upon arriving at the tent, you're shielded from the sun and rain by a covered entryway that leads directly into the main pavilion.

Restrooms, both public and private, are provided for everyone; while private his/hers dressing rooms are available to performers and guests. The landscaped garden beside the venue does more than just beautify, it may also be used as an additional "al fresco" function area—weather permitting of course. Best of all, there's a huge parking lot nearby, so there's no need to worry about where to leave your car when attending a big event.

And speaking of big events, everyone's welcome to see Le Pavillon in its full glory as the official venue for the Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City, the biggest Metrobank credit cards bazaar. The bazaar will be held at Le Pavillon from Nov. 16-18, 2001 and promises to be a truly exhilarating Christmas shopping experience.

Sponsored by the Metrobank Group of Companies, the bazaar will occupy Le Pavillon's entire 1,440 sqm space (roughly big enough to fit three basketball courts), filling the tent with shopping stalls from end to end. Bazaar organizers rounded up some of the biggest brand names in fashion, handicrafts, porcelain products, appliances and bundled them up with these unbeatable offers for Metrobank cardholders: option to pay everything on installment at only 1.5 percent interest per month, discounts of up to 75 percent, zero-percent interest on installment for selected items, and special surprises from Toyota, Manila Doctors Hospital and Philippine AXA Life.

Unique to the Shopping City bazaar is its credit card-based payment system that gives shoppers added flexibility and convenience when shopping. In contrast, other Christmas bazaars tend to discourage credit card usage which can be a hassle to Christmas shoppers, forcing them to carry large amounts of money. Though you can only use Metrobank credit cards, non-cardholders can avail of a "shopping card" that lets them enjoy the same shopping convenience, minus the installment facility.

So, do you think Le Pavillon will be able to truly deliver on its promise to be the premiere events venue in the Metro? Taking into account its immense size, climate controlled interior, lush landscape and more than ample parking area, there's absolutely no doubt that Le Pavillon will not only fulfill its promise, but may even surpass all public expectations. See you there at Le Pavillon.

THE METROBANK CREDIT CARDS
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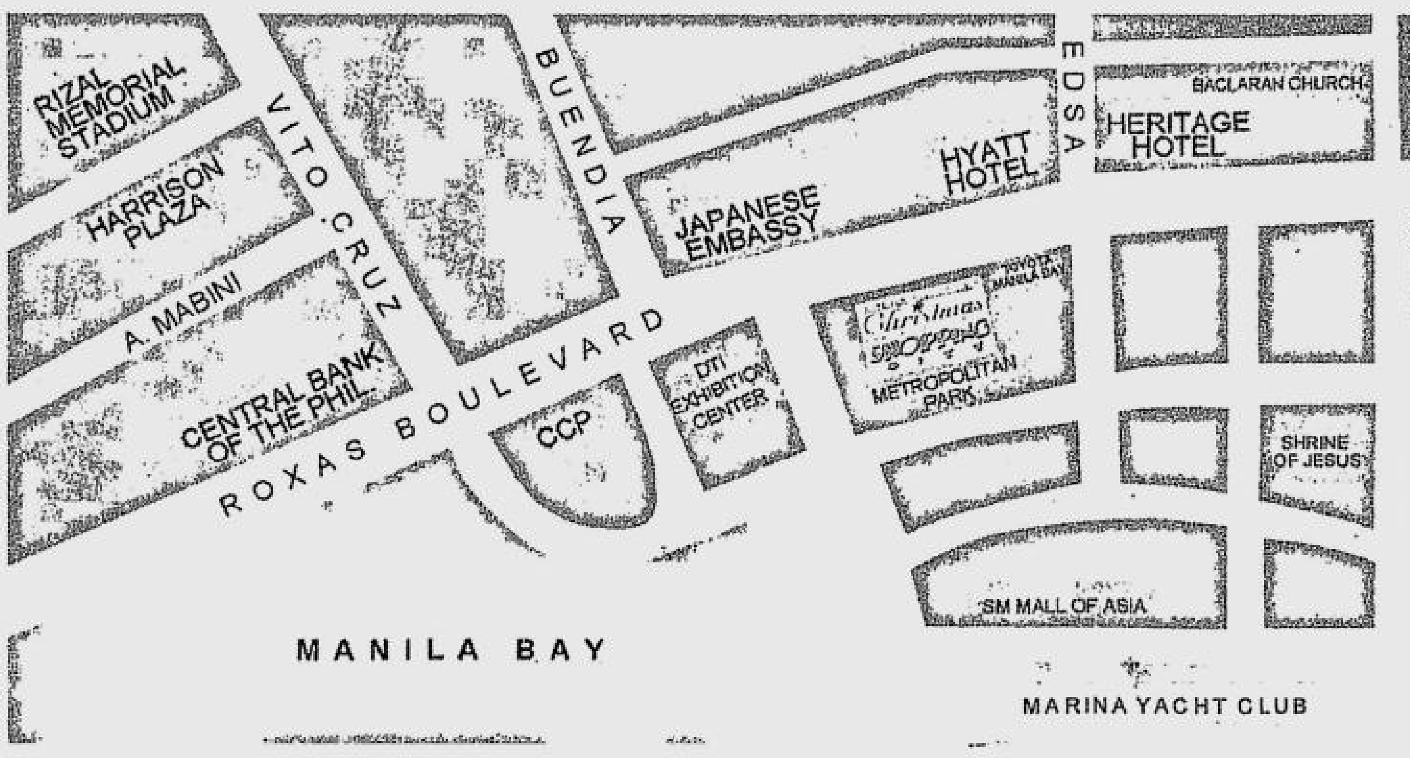
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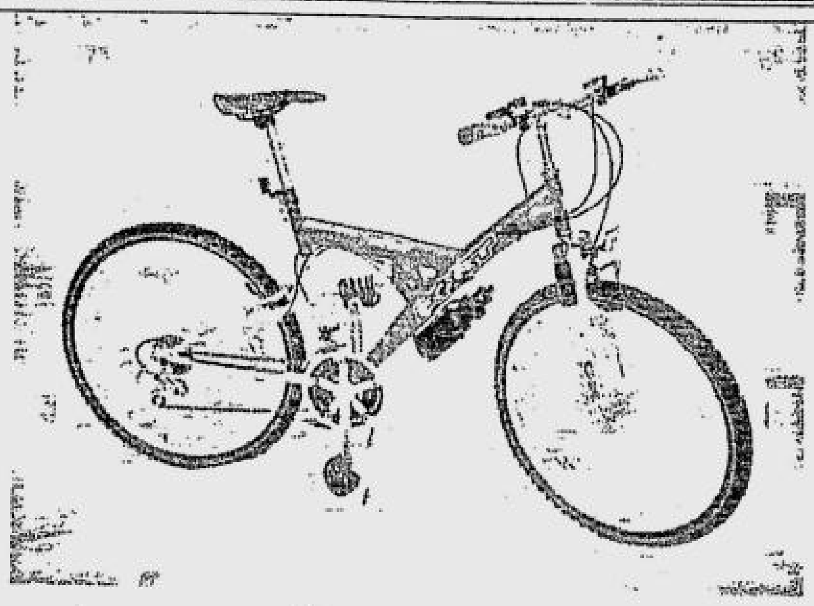

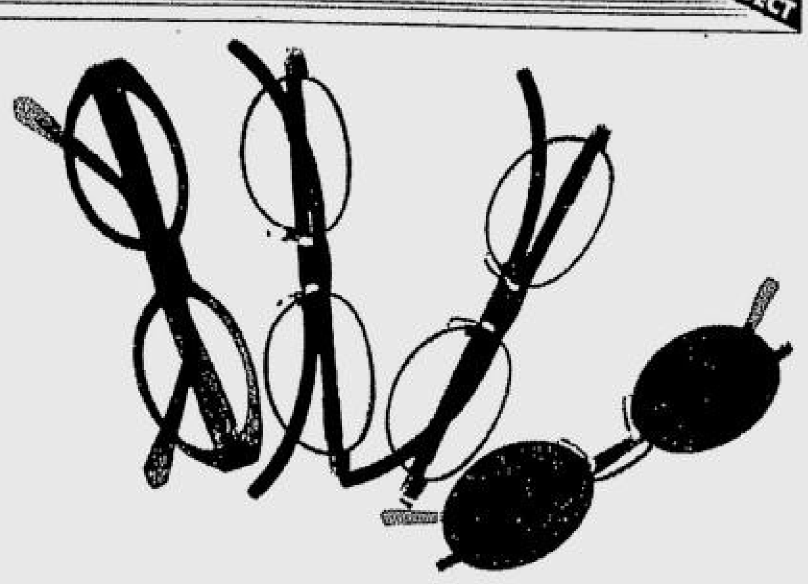

EXECUTIVE OPTICAL IS THE EXCLUSIVE EYEWEAR CONCESSIONAIRE OF THE BAZAAR.

What's up at the Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Bazaar?

IT'S a one-stop shop at the Metrobank Credit Cards' Christmas Shopping City. There's a wide array of items to choose from … all at good prizes and superb quality. Everything that you'd like to have and give away for the Holidays are here.

Looking for clothes, shoes and bags? Here's what you get…

Mary Mike and Springtime Creations for kids. For the kids-at-heart are Replay, Jean Station (for Freego and Criterion) Gutsby Jeans and Maldita. There are imported RTW clothes from Crossings Department Store, Formostar, Chevalet Corp., Matt-Matt Garments and AKC International Marketing. Enjoy shopping for corporate attire and export overruns from Divine Trading, The Tent House and other concessionaires and delight in the Natori collection.

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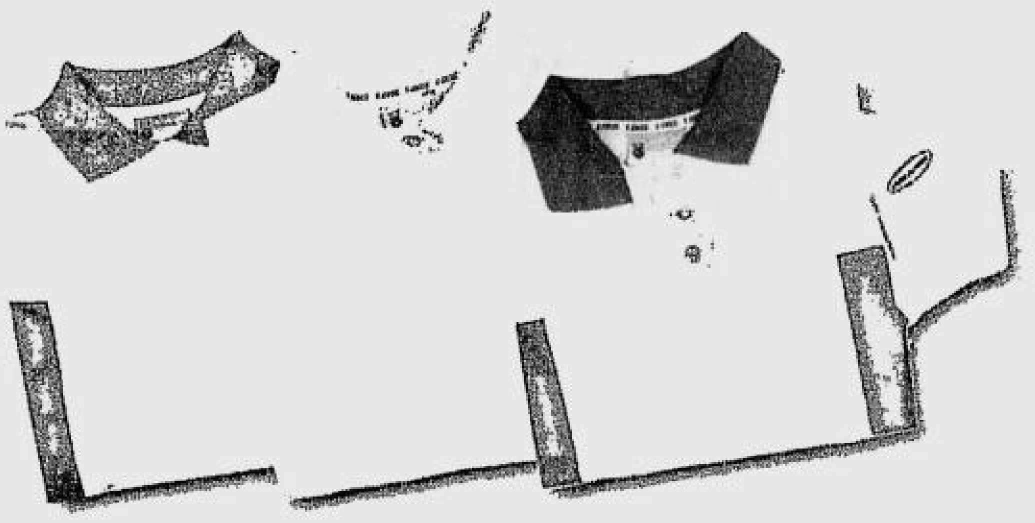
Christmas
SHOPPING
CITY

Try on the quality shoes from Fred Perry, Sugus Shoes and Otto Shoes. Match these with bags from Noraya Quilts of Bangkok, Bulsita and Yanica handmade bags and accessorize with Crystals.

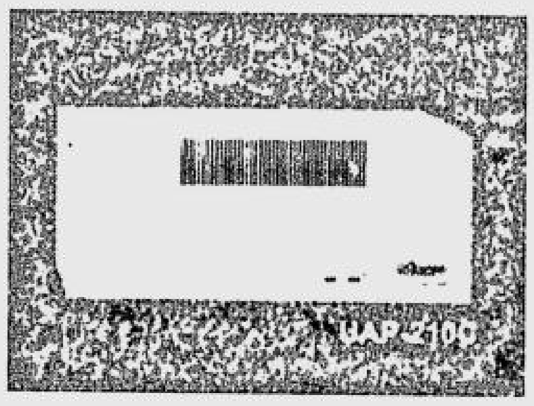
The males wouldn't be left behind, though, as we have sports items and apparels from Proline, Globalbrands (for Wbrown and K-Swiss), Walker Inter Fashions, imported treats from CS Garments, King's Treat and accessories and interesting merchandise from OE Trading, Dakki plus bicycles from Cycle Shack. There will also be computers and gadgets from IBM and Palm PDAs.

Of course, both men and women will certainly take pleasure in going through the wide selection of fine merchandise from Canon, Kodak, Igloo, Tiger Thermos products, The Bed and Bath Collection, not to mention good books from WS Pacific Publications and AMSPEC. Cellular phones and all its paraphernalia will be brought in by First Asia Mobile, Let's Talk Communications, Telecoms Specialists Inc. and Search Commercial.



Furniture flown in from Cebu courtesy of Philosophy Lifestyle Studio, durable fine furniture from Grace Park Industries, contemporary designs from Play and Display plus unique and hard to find selections from Chanalli.

Children will have a grand time choosing from the toys to be sold at low prices by Funtastic, Kuddle Kraze, Ann's Success Stuffed Toys, and Smarty Toys. There are foodies from Benby Enterprises (Frito Lays, Quacker Oats) and Dalisay Sweets. So moms and dads, you better take note.



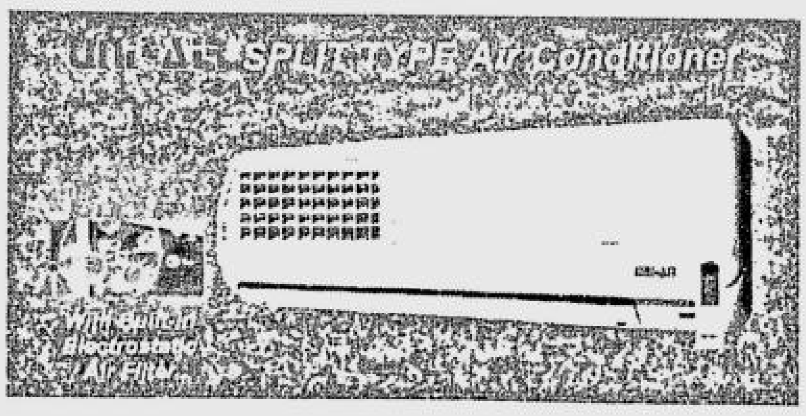
Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without those trimmings and decors that shine and glitter. Bringing all these in are Idianale, Seventrees Handicraft, HobbyCo Country Craft, Craftmard, Veloso's Gift Shop and Teano International Export Corp.

Great buys on household, porcelain and novelty items from no less than Noritake, Phil. House of Ceramics, Phil. Gifts Houseware, Inc. Cardinal Ceramics, CSM International Corporation (Fine Porcelain), Lucky Tableware (of Cebu) and Royal Selangor.

And women, they live to shop, don't they? Precious and semi-precious jewelry are available courtesy of Lili Jewelry and Mari-cars' Jewelry. Linens, sheets and curtain materials from Evans Linen by Casablanca, Nonwoven Fabric Phils., Inc., Tristar Plastic, and floral designs from La Floral.

Of course, the show won't be complete without the top appliances brands in town like Sony, Pioneer and Aiwa. The rest of the big appliance names will be alongside the major dealers such as Abenson with Hanabishi, Kyowa, Moulinex, Asahi, 3D and Uni-air. Automatic Center with Philips, Konka, Koppel, Union and Frigidaire. Anson Appliance with Whirlpool, American Home, G.E. and Singer. Ambassador Appliance with Condura and Palm. Western Marketing with Samsung, Daewoo, Sanyo and Sharp.

This is one power line-up you wouldn't want to miss.



THE METROBANK CREDIT CARDS
SHOPPING CITY
VALID ONLY AT THE METROBANK SHOPPING CITY

NON-METROBANK credit cardholders can buy shopping cards at the bazaar.

How to buy a tough-as-nails notebook computer

BY JENNIFER LI

THE NOTEBOOK computer has gone a long way in its short life. From a poor and expensive desktop computer-wannabe in the late '80s, the mobile PC today has transformed into an elegant, powerful and indispensable tool used either for work or play by millions of people all over the world.

Compared to the personal computer which was first introduced 20 years ago this month, the notebook computer is fairly young, but throughout its history, it has constantly been put to the toughest tests, showing its trustworthiness even in the most extreme settings. Now, many people consider the notebook computer as an invaluable tool. The ability to work on the computer anytime, anywhere is perhaps the greatest asset of the notebook PC.

However, buying a mobile computer today has become a challenging task because most notebooks out in the market have almost similar looks, functions and prices. When choosing, keep in mind that an excellent design sets notebook computers apart.

To help you decide which notebook is for you, consider these points:

- Excellent design—good design is the differentiating factor among notebook computers. All other points depend on the notebook's design.
- Thin and light—size and weight is a great measure of excellent design.
- Easy to use—no matter what the product, each of use is important.
- Comfortable keyboard—keyboard comfort is something more manufacturers forget about. A comfortable and accurate pointing device is also key.
- Great connectivity—being able to connect in a variety of ways is vital to a mobile user.
- Large range of products—having just the right product for the user is also important when choosing which notebook vendor to buy from.
- Superb reliability—since a mobile product is always on the move, it must be designed to take it.
- Options, options—the notebook vendor must offer a wide range of expansion options not only by itself but also by its partners. These options expand the function of the notebook to provide application and environment flexibility.
- Competitively priced—the notebook vendor must offer a wide range of products at various price ranges from the economical to the ultimate desktop replacement systems.
- Worldwide services and support—a mobile product, like its user, can travel to all the corners of the world. The notebook vendor must be able to offer service and support in countries around the world 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

(Jennifer Li is IBM Philippines' product specialist for the ThinkPad. IBM ThinkPad and Netvista are available during the Metrobank Credit Cards Bazaar at discounted prices.)

Merry Christmas!

Visit the PhilCharter Booth
at
THE METROBANK CREDIT CARDS
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING CITY
and win exciting prizes!

Date: Nov. 16,17, & 18, 2001
(9am to 8pm)
Venue: Le Pavillon, Metropolitan Park, Roxas Blvd. cor. EDSA Ext., Pasay City

See you there!

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NEXTEL

"Nextel Communications Inc., the nation's leading provider of fully integrated, all-digital wireless service, supports the Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City by contributing 10 units of cellular phones which will make communication between organizers of the bazaar easier with its two-way radio feature called Nextel Direct Connect, an exclusive feature of Nextel phones."

SPECIAL PROJECT

More freebies and surprises await shoppers from Metrobank

THE METROBANK Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City is bursting at the seams will all sorts of offers and surprises for all shoppers. Aside from all the giveaways from Metrobank and its subsidiaries, the Shopping City's participating merchants have their own lineup of freebies to add to the joyous occasion.

1. Get a free gift item for every P500 purchase at The Coffe Republic table at the Food Area of the Bazaar.

2. Get a free automatic eye refraction exam with no purchase necessary at the Executive Optical booth.

3. Present an invoice of any amount and get a free gift item at the Kodak booth.

4. Present an invoice of any amount and get the chance to pick a prize from the Canon Lucky Fish Bowl. There are no "Better luck next time" picks.

5. Kids of all ages will enjoy passing time at the Amspec booth coloring table. Amspec will be giving away free coloring sheets for kids with no purchase necessary.

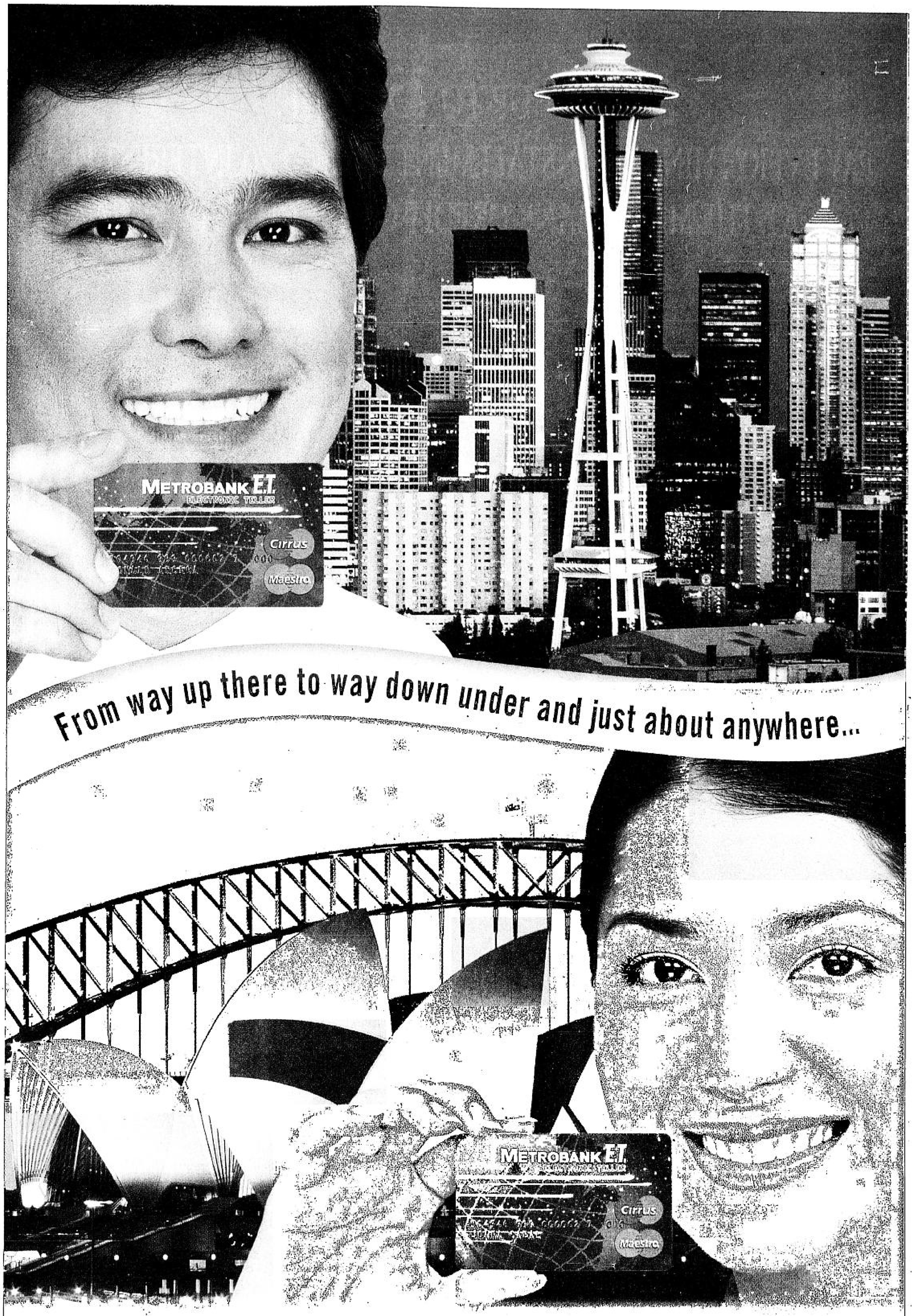
6. Buy selected items from the Pioneer booth and receive free gift items.

7. Looking for appliances or cameras? Then you'll be happy to know that these fine dealers will be offering selected items at zero-percent interest on installment: Aiwa, Pioneer, Sharp, Whirlpool, Union, Uniair, Philips, Canon, Kodak, among others.

8. Enjoy wine-tasting at the Happy Living bar located at the Food Area of the Bazaar.

The fun and freebies never seem to end. So what are you waiting for? Head on over to the Metrobank Credit Cards Christmas Shopping City and enjoy what just might be the most rewarding Christmas shopping experience you'll ever have.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1447, SERIES OF 2001.



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Withdraw local currency in the country you're in anywhere in the world! With the new Metrobank E.T. international card, you'll never have to worry about carrying too much cash or making unnecessary trips to the money changers when you are abroad. The new Metrobank E.T. international card is accepted in over 600,000 Cirrus Maestro ATMs in over 100 countries.

Here in the Philippines, you can access your account through over 400 Metrobank E.T.s and over 1,600 BancNet ATMs nationwide. With your Metrobank E.T. international card you can:

- **inquire about your balance**
- **pay your bills**
- **reload your pre-paid cell phone**
- **transfer funds to another Metrobank account***
- **transfer funds to another account in a BancNet-member bank***

So whether you're travelling for business or pleasure or just staying in the country, enjoy day and night ATM convenience with the Metrobank E.T. international card. Exchange your old Metrobank E.T. card with the new international card or open a Metrobank E.T. account with at least ₱2,000.00 initial deposit.

*Requires enrollment

Grab the chance to win any of these exciting prizes!

Grand prize:	1 unit loaded, all-power Toyota Altis
2nd prizes:	4 trips to Singapore for 2 plus US$500 pocket money
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Consolation prizes:	12 Nokia 8890 cell phones

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1445, Series of 2001

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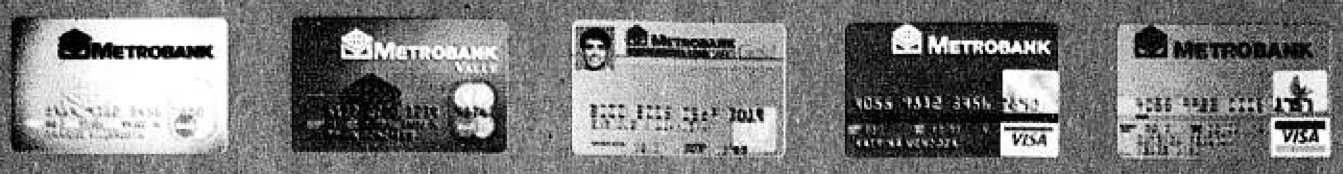

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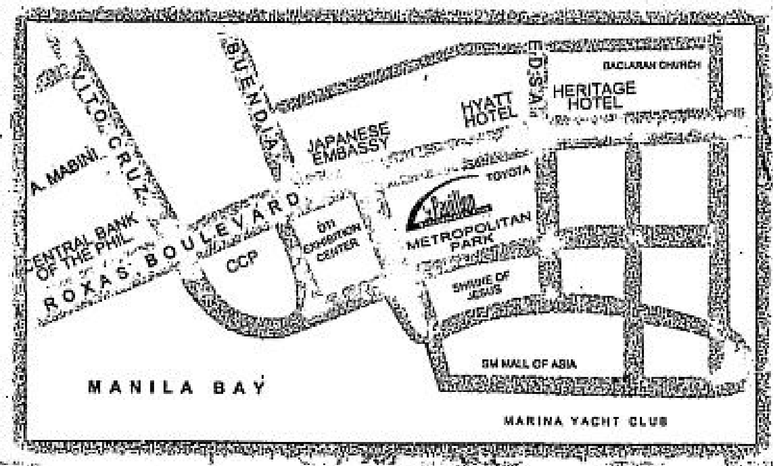

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1447, Series of 200[illegible]

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